SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND TEACHING ISSUES **ALL INSIDE TODAY'S**

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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk September 25, 2011 **MID & NORTH KENT EDITION** Issue no 470

Privatisation fears as NHS faces rising costs of new PFI hospitals

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FEARS have been raised that crippling "NHS mortgages" could push the health service closer to privatisation.

The concerns were voiced after the Government warned that the rising cost of hospitals built through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) was jeopardising the finances of two Kent NHS trusts.

According to the Department of Health, 22 trusts – including Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which run Darent Valley Hospital and the brand new £228m Pembury Hospital respectively – are facing spiralling repayment costs.

Under PFI, private firms pay to build hospitals with the NHS left to pay a mortgage-like fee over 30 years.

But Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said some trusts had deals they could not afford and were on the "brink of financial collapse".

He added that the Government was making an independent assessment of the schemes, with proposals including the renegotiation of PFI contracts.

Dover Labour councillor Mike Eddy, a governor at Kent LINk, an independent group working towards improving health services, said he feared the sudden concern by government over PFI by problems, which he claimed were known about last year, could be a way of kick-starting a tender process for PFI schemes to private qualified providers.

"Taking a cynical view, the Government could be thinking 'we could get the PFI scheme into the private sector to save us a lot of money' which would add to their privatisation agenda," he said.

Continued on page 2

BRAVE GURKHAS ARE NOT ASYLUM SEEKERS

DEEPLY SHOCKED: MP's comments anger Gurkha rights campaigners **SEE INSIDE**

POLITICS

KCC leadership bid criticised

A SENIOR Tory councillor says now is not the time for two of his colleagues to challenge Paul Carter for the KCC leadership.

Cabinet member Kevin Lynes believes there are other more important tasks at hand such as dealing with Government spending cuts. **PAGE 3**

HEALTH

Off-licences 'not to blame'

HEALTH chiefs have denied claims towns with large numbers of off-licences are more likely to have problems with young people suffering from alcohol-related illnesses.

Alcohol Concern says it has figures to back up its view, but the overall statistics for Kent suggest otherwise. **PAGE 14**

SPORT

Now or never for Shakey

KENT rider Shane Byrne heads to Silverstone this weekend knowing he needs to pick up some points or face missing out in the British Superbike Championship title race.

The Sheppey star is third in the standings and needs wins ahead of the Brands Hatch finale next month. **PAGE 77**

OAK & PINE

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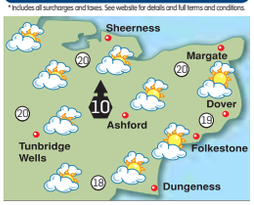

TODAY: Sunny spells. Warm with just a gentle south-westerly breeze. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F). **TONIGHT:** The risk of a few showers. Min temp 12-15C (54-59F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	10.00	6.3	22.18	6.4
Margate	10.59	4.5	23.24	4.7
St Mary's	03.32	5.1	15.52	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 23C	Min 10C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 21C	Min 14C
Thursday	Max 22C	Min 14C
Friday	Max 22C	Min 12C
Saturday	Max 20C	Min 11C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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HEALTH CARE

State-of-the-art PFI hospitals 'high quality, but high cost'

Continued from front page

"There are a lot of private companies sniffing around the NHS. From a LINk perspective we would not like to see the break-up of the NHS."

Cllr Eddy said there had always been concerns about PFI schemes, but he questioned whether it was worse to have old, badly-designed hospitals which had caused problems such as infections.

"With any kind of mortgage there are always the potential problems and LINk is quite clearly concerned with those risks, but we are pleased that new facilities have been built, not just hospitals but surgeries and other services.

"In terms of Kent we have two big PFI schemes; clearly there are problems with long-term viability, but the priority is a high quality of facilities for as many people as possible."

Cllr Eddy said the Government had to look across all NHS balance sheets to help with PFI payments.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which this week saw the opening of Pembury Hospital, is one of 22 trusts working with the Department of Health as part of an independent assessment of PFI.

A trust spokesman said the economic climate had changed since the PFI was agreed under Labour in 2008, and that the trust welcomed the help it was being given to ensure the new hospital remained financially viable in the future.

"PFI was the avenue of national funding offered to the trust to replace two of the most antiquated NHS hospitals in the country," he added.

The cost of the trust's PFI repayment is £1.7m a month from a monthly income of £30m, with the repayments due to continue for 30 years.

A spokesman at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust admitted the downturn in the economy had exposed the financial challenges of the Darent Valley scheme, which was described as "high quality, but high cost".

"We welcome the review of the PFI finances and hope there will be a central solution to offset the current high cost of the facility. The benefits of the PFI are that it is maintained within the overall cost and the trust does not have to concern itself with how to pay for such things as maintenance."

FUNDRAISING

Cathedral campaign crosses Atlantic

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SUPPORT: Canterbury Cathedral needs £50 million for restoration, in America the campaign is supported by George Bush

AN AMBITIOUS appeal to raise £50 million for the restoration of Canterbury Cathedral is to be given a renewed focus in America.

Former US President George Bush Senior is a patron of the fundraising effort stateside, and the charity behind the appeal – the Canterbury Gift – hopes fellow countrymen will be inspired to dig deep, too.

More than £14m has already been donated to the project, which includes ongoing repairs to various parts of the cathedral as well as general running costs of about £9,000 a day.

Andrew Edwards joined the Canterbury Gift as chief executive last month and said increasing the awareness of the appeal in America was one of his main priorities.

"The Canterbury Cathedral choir is touring the States next year so we'll be using that as a platform to build support," he said.

"But it's difficult because the American economy is rocky and there's a lack of confidence about money at the moment, so we will have to be cautious and take things one step at a time.

"I think the cathedral has slightly understated itself in recent times, but it's the mother church and the symbolic home of the worldwide Anglican community so we need to start packaging it in the right way.

"This isn't just about raising £50m and then closing shop and going home. We need to ensure the building has a sustainable future going forward and that in 40 years' time it will still benefit from a solid base of support."

Mr Edwards joined the Canterbury Gift after five years as chief executive of the National Churches Trust, which is dedicated to promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value all over the UK.

The Save Canterbury Cathedral appeal was launched in October, 2006, with the aim of raising £50m within five years.

While that deadline has now been missed, Mr Edwards said he was still confident the total can be reached within the next three to five years.

"These are ever-moveable targets," he said. "The scale of this project is enormous and I'm always reluctant to set a timescale, but at least it gives us a sense of urgency.

"While the cathedral is in need of a lot of repairs, I don't think it's about to fall apart. This isn't a scare story. We have a very professional team here who look after this building and ensure the issues in most urgent need of attention are addressed."

■ **See p11 for Frank Skinner at the cathedral.**
■ **See www.yourcanterbury.co.uk for news and sport headlines.**

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POLITICS

Tory's message to colleagues: Now is not the time for a leadership battle

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A SENIOR Tory figure at Kent County Council has criticised the timing of the leadership challenge issued by two of his colleagues.

Last week former cabinet members Cllr Nick Chard and Cllr Keith Ferrin announced their intentions to dethrone current KCC leader Paul Carter, with Cllr Chard emailing Cllr Carter to tell him he had been unhappy with elements of his leadership "for some time".

An election among the council's Conservative group is now due to take place on Friday, October 14, but one of its most senior members told KoS there were more important things to worry about than who leads the authority.

Cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise Cllr Kevin Lynes had previously been tipped for a leadership challenge but has not put his name forward on this occasion.

He said: "We have an awful lot going on at KCC at the moment. We have a very difficult regime in terms of finance, and we're in the middle of a very significant restructure, so in my view now is not the time to be worrying about the leadership. We need to batten down the hatches and get on with things.

COMPETITION: Council leader Paul Carter, left, is to be challenged for the leadership of the KCC Tory group by Nick Chard, pictured, and Keith Ferrin

"The Conservative group is very tight-knit but Paul Carter would be the first to say a challenge to his leadership is a democratic freedom every member holds. But I hope we can get through this and get back down to the job at hand."

Cllr Lynes was elected to KCC in 2001 and was cabinet member for resources from 2002 to 2005. He also held the adult social services portfolio for a short time in 2008.

"I've never made any secret of the fact I would dearly love that job (of leader)," he said. "It would be a true privilege but now is not the time. That's why I haven't thrown my hat in the ring on this occasion."

Cllr Carter has been leader of the county council since the late Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart stepped down in 2005, but there has been disquiet in some quarters for several months.

Cllr Chard – who had been a cabinet member for 12 years before being relieved from his highways responsibilities in February – accused Cllr Carter of causing "unnecessary damage" to the administration.

He added: "I have been unhappy with elements of your leadership for some time, even before your curt dismissal of me.

"There is an opportunity to 'put up or shut up' at our AGM next month. I intend to be a candidate for the leadership of our group. I want the people we serve to see a change for the better."

When contacted by KoS, Cllr Chard said he did not wish to comment further until after the leadership election.

Neither Cllr Carter nor Cllr Ferrin were available for comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-paper boss arrest

NEWSPAPER pioneer Eddy Shah and three Kent residents are being investigated by police as part of a probe into underage sex allegations.

The founder of the defunct Today paper was one of the first to utilise desktop publishing systems in the 1980s, which helped transform the British press.

Shah, who lives in Wiltshire, was arrested and has been bailed alongside five other unidentified people until January.

Amazon rescue effort

DOVER Coastguard helped rescue a retired couple stranded in an Amazonian rainforest.

Lesley Norris and Bruce Scott, from London, became trapped down a ravine in Brazil when the bridge they were crossing collapsed.

They used a satellite phone to call a relative in Eastbourne, who in turn passed their co-ordinates onto Dover coastguard.

The Brazilian authorities were then alerted, with the couple rescued a short time later.

Sorrell at awards bash

TV personality Nancy Sorrell will be presenting the top prize at this weekend's Spirit of Try Angle award ceremony.

The model and wife of comedian Vic Reeves will be one of the guests of honour at the event, which celebrates the achievements of young people who have overcome personal struggles in their lives.

The ceremony takes place this Sunday (September 25), from 2.30-6pm at Ashford International Hotel. Sorrell will present the prize to the overall winner of the awards.

LYDD

Airport bosses 'confident' in expansion bid as enquiry ends

CAMPAIGNERS fighting against the expansion of Lydd Airport have made their final pleas to the Government planning inspector to turn down the controversial development.

As the six-month inquiry drew to an end, closing statements by the airport and its opposition were read in an eleventh-hour bid to bring the Government on side.

Lydd Airport Action Group (LAAG) outlined evidence to oppose the proposed £25 million development, which includes a 300 metre extension of the runway and a new terminal capable of handling thousands more passengers.

Supporters, including Damian Green MP, say it will give the area a boost with the opportunity to create much-needed jobs.

But LAAG said it had the potential to "destroy wealth, to destroy the environment and to destroy the lives of many people".

The campaign group also cited the nuclear dangers of expanding the airport with Dungeness power station so close by.

Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), has also opposed the development, stating it was "marginally confident" about the final decision, which is expected in spring next year.

"Should planning permission be granted for this development, the tranquility of the Romney Marsh, a unique area of the British Isles, will be devastated," said a spokesman.

"The airport operators have not been able to satisfactorily answer some vitally important questions about the possible impacts of their proposals, such as the impact of noise on the outside teaching area and nursery block at Greatstone Primary School.

DECISION TIME: The six-month enquiry into the expansion of Lydd Airport has now ended

Lydd Airport's senior management team said they were pleased the inquiry had provided the opportunity for a comprehensive debate, and were looking positively towards the outcome.

A spokesman said: "We are confident we have provided overwhelming evidence to show our applications to develop the site accord with national and local policies and would not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the internationally-designated sites of wildlife and ecological importance, or a significant adverse effect on sites of ecological importance.

"We are also confident our evidence to the inquiry has clearly demonstrated the economic and job-creation benefits of our plans in serving as a catalyst in the regeneration of Romney Marsh and the wider Shepway community."

Shepway council voted the proposals through last year, but Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles later called for a public inquiry to be held.

Kent Community Health NHS
NHS Trust

Do you want to find out more about your local NHS services in the community?

The next Kent Community Health NHS Trust public board meeting will take place on **Thursday 29 September 2011** starting at 10.00am and finishing at 1.00pm.
At The Singleton Environment Centre,
Wesley School Road (off Cuckoo Lane),
Singleton, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5LW

Copies of the Board Papers will be available on our website from 26 September 2011, please visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk

For questions relating to the board meeting please contact

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EQUAL RIGHTS

Outrage as MP calls for Gurkhas to be treated like asylum seekers

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A LEADING Gurkha campaigner has called for the resignation of a defence minister who said the soldiers should be dispersed "like asylum seekers".

Gurkha Justice Campaign founder and Folkestone resident Peter Carroll, who successfully fought for equal settlement rights for retired Gurkhas in 2009, said he was "deeply shocked" by comments made by Aldershot MP Gerald Howarth (Con).

"I think he should resign because instead of behaving like a minister with the MoD, he is acting like a parochial politician," he said.

"He is in a position of leadership and he should be careful about what he says. Some people in Aldershot are referring to the Nepalese community as 'Neps', which is so derogatory, and so hearing their own MP making these comments is not going to help the situation.

"Gurkhas are his constituents just as much as the white community. They are not asylum-seekers; they fought for this country and they are not here illegally.

"I am deeply shocked by the comments he made. This is 2011, not 1950."

Kent is home to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, based at Shorncliffe, Folkestone, and nearly half of the soldiers from the Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Defence minister Mr Howarth said this week that his own constituency of Aldershot was being overwhelmed by the Nepalese ex-soldiers and their families following the landmark decision to grant them the right to settle in Britain.

BRAVE SOLDIERS: Peter Carroll has written to the Prime Minister and his deputy to complain about the MP for Aldershot's comments regarding dispersal of Gurkhas

He controversially argued that there needed to be a policy of dispersal, stating "that's what we do with asylum seekers".

His comments sparked outrage and prompted Mr Carroll and actress Joanna Lumley, who fought the Gurkha settlement campaign alongside him, to write to David Cameron and Nick Clegg expressing their anger.

"I have faith they wouldn't let this happen," said Mr Carroll. "The last thing they need is Peter Carroll and Joanna Lumley on the warpath. They have more important things to deal with right now, like serious economic problems and people desperately trying not to lose their jobs."

He added: "About two years ago, 900,000 immigrants came here from Europe in one year. Today, the number of Gurkha veterans to come here since our campaign is about 5,000-6,000 so the numbers are minute in comparison.

"Gurkhas don't cause any trouble in communities. This is creating fear and uncertainty and they feel hurt.

"They are going to worry that if family members come over, they will be sent to live miles away from them."

Mr Carroll said the only thing he supported Mr Howarth on was the need to help Gurkhas integrate in communities with schemes such as English language training with the help of local authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Actor launches charity

DAD'S Army star Frank Williams will be the star turn at the launch of a charity in Biggin Hill.

The actor, who played Reverend Timothy Farthing in the 1970s BBC comedy, will be on hand to launch Veneratio – an initiative to help Kent's elderly through greater community interaction and social events.

The event will be held at New Life Church, Biggin Hill, from 4pm on October 1. Tickets are £5. Visit www.veneratio.org.uk.

Hunt for bomb hoaxer

KENT Police have issued a fresh appeal for information to help catch the hoaxer who left a suspicious package near a primary school in Canterbury.

Officers were called to Broad Street at 1.15pm on Wednesday, September 14, to an "elaborate hoax" package which the bomb disposal unit destroyed in a controlled explosion.

Police want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious.

Business conference

A TRANSPORT Motoring Forum is to be held at Maidstone's Russell Hotel on Friday aimed at exploring new business opportunities in the industry.

The event is hosted by the Business Innovation Group (BIG) for Kent and the University of Greenwich, and will feature talks from a number of experts in the field. Email wj77@gre.ac.uk for more information.

TURNER CONTEMPORARY

Nothing in the world but visitors as gallery focuses on staying popular

PREPARATIONS for future exhibitions at Turner Contemporary are already under way to keep the streams of visitors coming through its doors.

Bosses at the gallery in Margate said they expected another 100,000 people to visit the latest display, Nothing in the World But Youth, before the end of the year.

The exhibition, which features 200 pieces including early work from JMW Turner, and pieces by other world-famous artists including Andy Warhol, Peter Blake and Henry Moore, focuses on what it means to be young.

Already the gallery has seen its predicted annual visitor figure of 156,000 significantly beaten, with the latest count at around 238,000 visitors since it opened in April.

Visitor figures are also sure to receive a boost when Rodin's The Kiss arrives.

CROWD PLEASER: Rodin's The Kiss will soon be on display

Head of learning and curator of the latest exhibition at Turner Contemporary, Karen Eslea, said she was not concerned about interest waning over time due to the variety of planned exhibitions.

"There is a large contrast between them all," she said.

"This latest exhibition has over 200 pieces where the first had a lot less because we wanted to show off the beautiful building.

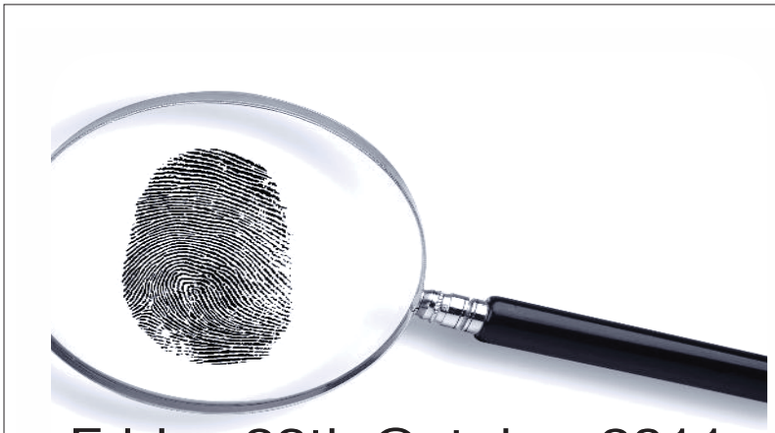
"It's hard to predict how many people will visit this new one but based on averages for the year it should be around 80,000 to 100,000.

"With the exhibitions we think about things like our audience and seasonality. They are all different and exciting and will keep those important repeat visits coming.

"In January we have a Turner exhibition with 90 pieces of his work. On October 4 Rodin's The Kiss will arrive and will stay at the gallery until September 2012."

She added: "We have a close relationship with businesses in the Old Town and the gallery has had a positive impact – they are definitely feeling the impacts of having 238,000 people through their doors."

■ **For more on the new exhibition turn to page 10.**



ART

Second sun to rise

A SPECTACULAR 'night sun' will appear in the skies above north Kent in October – visible for up to 20 miles away.

The helium-filled sphere will reach a height of around 400ft – higher than London skyscrapers – and be visible to hundreds of thousands of people. It will be such a remarkable sight the Civil Aviation Authority has been notified.

Sleepers Awake, as it will be known, is a new commission by internationally renowned artists Heather and Ivan Morison.

It has been created as part of the Milton Creek Country Park near Sittingbourne – a major regeneration project.

The aim of the commission is to "re-unite the community of Sittingbourne with a forgotten area of the town and act as a beacon – heralding the future of an area which will continue to embrace change and evolution".

The work of art will appear in the sky above the estuary at the mouth of Milton Creek on Saturday, October 1.

Each successive evening it will rise still higher in the sky and as dawn breaks it will sink slowly beneath the skyline. Throughout the month it will travel progressively closer to Sittingbourne.

A spokesman said: "The brightness of the lights will be powerful enough to create a vivid ball of light in the sky redefining the hues and contours of the post-industrial landscape beneath. It is predicted that the strangeness of the spectacle will attract huge numbers of night-time visitors to Milton Creek as a growing number of people become aware of the work."

HOMELESSNESS

We are on the verge of a crisis, warns charity

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A HOMELESSNESS charity says plans for almost 1,200 new affordable homes by 2015 are not enough to solve Kent's housing problems.

Porchlight chief executive Mike Barrett said while the scheme was a step in the right direction, a much greater number of affordable homes needed to be made available.

"This (1,200) is not an insignificant number," he said. "However, to put it in perspective, last year we received 1,497 referrals to our supported accommodation projects – an increase of 22 per cent on the previous year."

Mr Barrett's comments followed an announcement by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Town and Country Housing Group (TCHG) that 1,136 affordable homes are to be delivered in Kent under a four-year investment agreement. A consortium including TCHG, West Kent Housing Association and Gravesend Churches Housing Association successfully bid for the cash.

HCA executive director Terry Fuller said that the organisation was delighted to help deliver such a development.

"We will be working closely with the TCHG and our local authority partners to ensure these much-needed homes meet the needs of local people," he said.

But Porchlight's Mr Barrett admitted he still had concerns about Kent's affordable housing.

"With numbers of people in housing need expected to increase further, both nationally and in Kent, a much greater number of affordable homes need to be made available and quickly," he said.

Porchlight offers support to vulnerable and homeless people across the county, including supported accommodation projects.

NOWHERE TO LIVE: Porchlight says the affordable homes being built are a good start, but not enough to solve the county's growing housing problem

Last month, Mr Barrett warned that a lack of affordable housing and increased rents could force people to live in slum-like accommodation or squats. He added that combined with a 75 per cent funding cut to rough sleeper services, the county would have "nothing short of a crisis" on its hands.

A study by the National Housing Federation also revealed home ownership in the South East was likely to drop below 70 per cent in the next 10 years, with an entire generation "locked out of the housing market".

In a bid to improve provision, the HCA has worked closely with the TCHG to ensure the plans for affordable housing brought the maximum benefit to people in Kent.

While some of the investment will directly support existing developments, such as 42 extra care homes in the Sherwood area of Tunbridge Wells, a large part of it will benefit the wider Kent community.

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COUNTY HALL

Council staff branded unhelpful as pothole complaints rocket

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THERE has been a staggering rise in the number of complaints to Kent County Council about its environment, highways and waste services.

Some 2,272 gripes were received from frustrated members of the public between April, 2010, and March, 2011, – an increase of more than 600 from the previous year's figure of 1,641.

A rise was also seen in complaints made about the standard of work completed by the council, as well as staff being perceived as rude or unhelpful to customers.

County Hall chiefs blamed the rise on "increasing customer expectations", but admitted it had to find ways to improve the delivery of services and raise public satisfaction levels.

"A number of factors have contributed to the increase in complaint volumes, including high numbers of pothole and insurance complaints from April-May 2010," said cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, Cllr Bryan Sweetland, in a report due to be discussed on Tuesday.

He added that severe weather conditions in December, 2010, had also caused a rise in calls, where 269 complaints were made in that month alone.

More than 1,050 complaints were received in just five months from April-September, 2010, concerning potholes – either related to the high number or the quality of the resurfacing work.

The report also stressed that 1,694 compliments had been received by customers from April, 2010, to March, 2011.

Examples of complaints were released by KCC, with the majority concerning highways.

One complainant said: "Pothole has been filled in within the last three to four days and it has not been done properly. It is very rough and untidy. It will be out within days and so it is a waste of time and money."

Others berated the council for failing to send out gritters during heavy snowfall.

"Once again I am contacting you (KCC) to complain our road has not been gritted this year. We are in an extremely dangerous position now as our road is a solid ice pack and we are experiencing sliding into cars at no speed whatsoever," said one member of the public.

Complaints over expensive car parking fees and menu prices at Kent's country parks and lack of seating for disabled people and parents were received, as well as calls over poor services at household waste and recycling centres.

KCC said customer feedback had been reviewed to see what service improvements could be put in place.

A 'find and fix' campaign saw 31,000 potholes filled to improve driving conditions and prevent damage to vehicles.

■ **See p9 for plans to keep Kent moving this winter.**

HEAVY CRITICISM: In just six months potholes generated more than 1,000 complaints about work done for KCC

Great Reclamation Stoneware Clearance Event

From1st & 2nd October & throughout October **CHILSTONE** will be having a stone reclamation sale. There will be Architectural components & Garden ornaments available at amazing prices.
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LOCAL PRODUCE

Vote for your Kentish food and drink heroes

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE county's leading competition to find the top food and drink outlets and producers has kicked off.

Launched on Friday, the Taste of Kent Awards 2012 allow the public to vote in a range of categories.

Local food and drink champions Produced in Kent are behind the Taste of Kent Awards, which recognise the county's food and drink heroes and provide the public with a unique opportunity to hand pick and vote for their favourite food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs, and farmers' markets, before the deadline of Tuesday, January 3.

Following the initial consumer vote, the three finalists in each category will be judged by mystery shoppers, mystery diners, and an expert judging panel.

And this year there are four new categories as well as Vertex Law joining to be the overall sponsor.

Now in its eighth successful year, with the public vote continuing to grow year-on-year, the new categories introduced into the 2012 awards include the Produced in Kent Award which is designed to recognise the contribution of an individual or business to the Kent food and drink industry.

There will also be the AONB food, farming and landscape award which recognises the important contribution farmers and food producers make to the quality of our landscape.

In addition, Produced in Kent has added two awards to reward food and drink producers and manufacturers supplying the retail and foodservice industries. The Kent food product – retail, and Kent food product – food service, categories are new business awards for which businesses nominate their products – which will be judged exclusively by a panel of experts in the new year.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent, said: "The awards are seen as a benchmark of food and drink excellence in our county and for the talented companies that win, the accolades will act as a very real acknowledgement of our county's food and drink heroes and a stamp of approval from Kent consumers."

Online voting begins on Friday, September 23, at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk. Voters can place their nominations in one category, several, or all categories before the deadline of January 3. Alternatively, pick up a voting form at your nearest farmers' market and post to Produced in Kent Ltd, Bourne Grange Stables, Tonbridge Road, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0AU.

The final 12 winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at a new venue to be revealed shortly.

Sponsors of this year's awards are: AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Barclays Bank, Biddenden Vineyards, Hadlow College, Kent County Council, Kent Life, Kent Frozen Foods, Quex Park Estates, NFU Mutual, Opies, Stephen's Fresh Foods, and Visit Kent.

Media support comes from BBC Kent, insideKENT and Archant KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper.

■ **The categories: Kent meat retailer of the year, best Kentish beer, best Kentish wine, best Kentish cider or perry, best Kentish fruit juice, Kent local food retailer of the year, Kent seafood retailer of the year, Kent food product of the year (retail), Kent food product of the year (food service), Kent artisan food producer of the year, Kent restaurant of the year, Kent dining pub of the year, Kent farmers' market of the year, Produced in Kent award, AONB food, farming and landscape award.**

THE BEST: Last year's winners at the awards ceremony, and below, Julie Monkman of Produced in Kent

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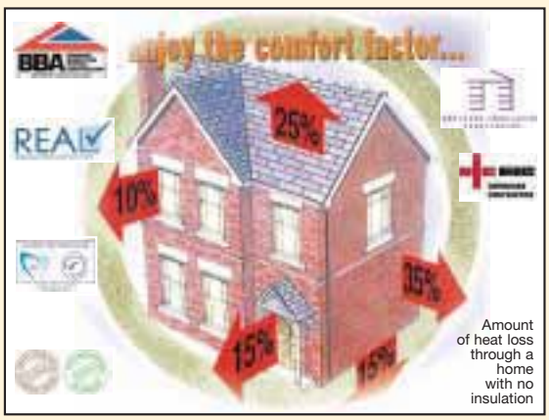

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EUROPEAN UNION

Rebel Conservatives demand referendum on EU membership

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

VOTE: The Tory group wants the public to have a say on Europe

TORY Eurosceptics say the Continent's ongoing economic woes are proof of why Britain needs to pull out of the EU.

Last week 120 Conservative backbenchers gathered at a private meeting in Westminster to voice their impatience at the lack of progress made by the Government in repatriating powers from Europe.

And days later the secretary of the 1922 Committee – Mark Pritchard – called on the Prime Minister to hold a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU, claiming it had "enslaved" the country.

Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless is among the Tories angry such a ballot has not yet taken place, and last year he refused to vote in favour of a separate referendum on proposed changes to the electoral voting system in protest.

"In a democratic society, people should be able to decide how they are governed," he said. "So if we can have a referendum on the alternative vote then we should certainly have one on whether Britain should be part of the EU.

"Politicians across Europe have carried out a terrible experiment on their people, and the fact they've made such a mistake – as the economic problems show – I think increases calls for us to make our own way in the world.

"I now think it's a matter of when we hold a referendum, not if, but I don't know whether it will be before or after the next election.

"If politicians can't agree on something and it begins to divide parties, that's when you need a referendum."

Earlier this month more than 100 Tory MPs formed a new Eurosceptic group which aims to reshape the UK's relations with the EU.

They anticipate treaty negotiations later this year and say they want to be prepared for talks on how the country can start to take powers back.

Daniel Hannan, Conservative MEP for the South East, has rejected claims the UK should remain part of the union until at least the eurozone crisis is resolved.

"The opposite is the case," he said. "We've been dragged into problems not of our making because we are in the EU.

"I think EU membership was sold to people as an economic necessity but that now looks ridiculous. We've shackled ourselves to a dead corpse.

"Nobody under 55 has had a vote on this. It's bizarre we had a referendum on the precise method by which we elect our MPs, but not if they are actually allowed to run the country.

"I would vote to come out of the EU but I would acknowledge the result either way. Consulting people is the right thing to do."

Meanwhile, UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, near Sevenoaks, and is also an MEP for the South East, said the need for an EU referendum was "absolutely urgent and vital".

He added: "Those who want this to happen have overwhelming support in the country and it's only our political leaders who are proving to be a road block."

■ **For news and sport go to www.yourmedway.co.uk.**

ROAD SAFETY

£3m earmarked to keep us moving in winter big freeze

MORE than £3 million is to be spent on keeping Kent moving this winter following disruption on the roads during last year's severe weather.

The allocated winter service budget, due to be discussed at an environment, highways and waste policy overview and scrutiny committee at Kent County Council on Tuesday, is due to be increased from £2,490,581 in 2010-11 to £3,159,581.

Funds will be spent on ensuring everyday life continues during the colder weather, through measures including salting roads and pavements, and clearing snow from our highways.

Heavy snow and freezing conditions hit Kent last December, causing roads in some areas of the county to become impassable.

Parts of the M20 and the Thanet Way were restricted to one lane due to hazardous driving conditions.

Icy pavements forced elderly people to stay in their homes, with complaints made to Kent County Council about unsalted pavements, and some rural roads becoming impassable, cutting off communities.

In this year's winter service policy, KCC said it would carry out precautionary salting on class A and B roads as well as on those identified by highways managers based on advice from local stakeholders and councils.

Parish councils are also being permitted to purchase their own salt bins for the benefit of their communities.

SNOW: Many roads were impassable last winter

Snow clearance on roads, footways and cycle paths will be carried out on a priority basis to reduce delays and inconvenience, with minor routes cleared by farmers, under agreement with KCC, using snow ploughs and blowers.

A KCC spokesman said: "The county council recognises the winter service is essential in aiding the safe movement of highway users, maintaining communications, reducing delays and enabling everyday life to continue.

"It is very important to both road safety and the local economy.

"KCC, as highway authority, takes its winter service responsibilities extremely seriously.

"However, it is important to recognise that the council has to prioritise its response to deal with winter weather due to the logistics and available resources."

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ART

Turner gallery gives youth its head with 'rocking' exhibition

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

MARGATE'S long association with youth culture is the inspiration behind the latest exhibition at the town's Turner Contemporary Gallery.

Nothing in the World But Youth focuses on those difficult teenage years.

Turner director Victoria Pomery said: "Margate's 20th century history is inextricably linked with youth culture; this may be because of its seaside location which encourages a certain sense of non-conformity and experimentation.

"Whatever the reason, we felt this was a pertinent and universal theme for an exhibition.

"It begins with works JMW Turner made as a teenager and ends with works specifically created for the show."

The gallery's rooms are packed with paintings, sculptures and film exploring the world of adolescence.

Many of the newer works involve youngsters in Thanet through the gallery's Teenage Advisory Group.

Ms Pomery said the exhibition came at a topical time when the general public and media's attitude to youth had been so affected by the riots.

There are more than 200 works on display by 94 artists.

Visitors can see works such as Julian Germain's classroom portraits.

The artist has become famous for taking pictures at schools around the world, but for this show he was asked to take a shot of students from the local Hartsdown Technology College.

Also on display are items from the Mott Collection. These include punk rock memorabilia such as fanzines and album covers dating from 1979-90.

There are well-known artists' work also on display such as sculpture of a young woman by Henry Moore and painting by David Hockney.

Curator Lauren Wright said: "Youth has always been an important part of Margate's culture dating back to the mods and rockers and the opening of Dreamland.

"Youth is a subject that has inspired a huge number of works, as we can see here. One of the real stars of the show is a self-portrait from Peter Blake who is one of the foremost British pop artists of our time. It was done at a time when he was just starting out his career."

TEENAGE REBELS: A school desk with an Iron Maiden design, above, and a statue of the much-maligned hoodie, below, on show at Turner Contemporary

Ms Wright said the exhibition had been a deliberate contrast with the opening show when there had been less than 10 artists work on display.

She said: "The opening show was really about showcasing the building and set out our stall as a contemporary gallery with new work specifically created for it.

"With this exhibition we wanted to do something that focused much more on a theme and something that related to Margate very closely.

"The space is really rocking with work. To take it all in you will need to come more than once."

Next month the famous sculpture The Kiss by Rodin will be coming to the gallery. The sculpture will be on display in the entrance hall for nearly a year.

Ms Pomery also said the new gallery's visitor numbers had been far higher than expected.

She said: "We had expected around 156,000 visitors for the first show so far we have had around 225,000."

■ **Nothing in the World But Youth runs until January 8 next year.**

■ **For all the news and sport headlines go to www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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RELIGION

Archbishop enjoys Frank debate about religion

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

GIVEN his reputation for risqué material, church officials might have wondered what they had let themselves in for when they invited Frank Skinner to Canterbury Cathedral.

In fact what took place last Friday at a packed cathedral was an insightful and thought-provoking discussion with the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams on many aspects of religion.

Skinner began by saying it was a great honour for him to be there, although being a committed Roman Catholic he wasn't sure how the evening was going to turn out in the home of the Anglican church.

After discussing the lack of laughs in the Bible with the Archbishop, Skinner moved on to his own experiences of going to church.

He said as a congregation member he was a tough audience and expected a lot from preachers, but was often disappointed by their sermons.

He said: "I can only think of three or four homilies in my lifetime that were truly memorable. If that had been my hit rate with gags, I would not be here tonight."

The comic said he felt priests should be better trained in the art of speaking to churchgoers.

He also said at the moment being an atheist was the "cool" position for most young people and the Church needed to counter that impression as strongly as it could.

He said: "Sometimes I feel like atheists are in some smart club whereas I am in McDonald's with Cliff Richard. To me being an atheist is a bit like denying global warming. If we get that position wrong it will have the same devastating affects for society.

"We need to recapture that time when we were the cool ones; being a cult, meeting in caves, under threat from the authorities – that's when Christians were at their coolest."

He attacked leading scientific atheists like Richard Dawkins for being so certain about their position.

He said: "I read his book The God Delusion and feared it might change my own views but I don't think it converted anybody. It just confirmed what they already feel."

> **We need to recapture the times when Christians were the cool ones, being in a cult, meeting in caves, under threat from the authorities**
>
> ROMAN CATHOLIC, FRANK SKINNER

Skinner said scientists could attack the idea of faith but they could not counter the wisdom it gave people.

The Archbishop talked of his experiences meeting a bishop in Zimbabwe where people's faith helped them get through economic turmoil and threats of violence.

He said: "When I met those people in Harare, you could see religion really helping people. It supports them and reaches into their guts."

Dr Williams asked Skinner why he had returned to being a Roman Catholic after 12 years of not attending as a young adult.

Skinner said: "I left because there were some things I just couldn't accept like papal infallibility. Leaving the Church led to such big rows with my parents that I didn't want to admit I was wrong. In the end an old priest friend said to me, 'why don't you just come back?' It was like coming home."

Skinner argued that religions should work together more and made a comparison with football.

He said: "Fans may support different teams but it is our love of the game we all share. That is the most important thing but sometimes in re-

Picture: EDWARD BENSON

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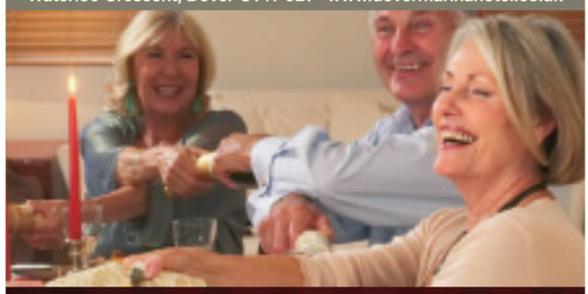

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

Rock star moves into

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TWENTY years ago his band headlined the main stage at Glastonbury.

His band's T-shirts were a must-have for a generation and he even managed to find himself on the front of every red-top tabloid after a scuffle with TV's Mr Nice Guy, Phillip Schofield.

Today, Les Carter, one half of early 1990s indie guitar band Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine, lives a more sedate life. Having moved out of his long-time base in Brixton, he now resides in a four-bedroom semi in a quiet, tree-lined, street in Folkestone.

And at 52 he still has the instantly recognisable face which once adorned the front pages of the music press.

His name may be unfamiliar, but to millions he was better known as Fruitbat – the guitar playing half of a duo who crossed from the small clubs into the mainstream as popular music taste swung towards Britpop.

Along with frontman Jim 'Jim Bob' Morrison, they rode the pre-Britpop tide in style with an infectious blend of guitar, drum machine, catchy tunes and pun-heavy, socially-aware lyrics, which lifted them up from their contemporaries and to the top of the mainstream charts.

Their albums 101 Damnations and 30 Something were universally acclaimed; their live shows exhilarating.

Songs such as Sheriff Fatman, Rubbish, After the Watershed and The Only Living Boy in New Cross went flying into the charts.

By the time 1992 – The Love Album was released, they secured their first number one LP and were headlining the UK's major festivals, including a memorable show at Glastonbury in 1992.

But in 1998, after 10 years and a steady decline in their popularity – as they saw the likes of Blur and Oasis become the mainstream choice – they split. Disillusioned by the industry which had delivered them such riches.

"Headlining at Glastonbury was the pinnacle really," explains Carter.

"The plan was to just get bigger and bigger, but it got to the stage where we had got to where we wanted to go but in the end neither of us really liked it.

"It became so business orientated; popularity could only be sustained by a major label and all the workings which go with it; and you ended up having to be nice to people you don't like."

However, in recent years the pair have reunited and played to sell-out audiences in London, Glasgow and, this November, Manchester.

And with their first festival headlining slot in Devon earlier this summer there is clearly life in the old dog yet.

For Fruitbat – who once famously wrestled Philip Schofield to the floor during a live BBC broadcast of the Smash Hits' Poll-Winners Party, the lure of regular live performance still drives him.

The band he formed following Carter's split, the difficult

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KENT CRISPS

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to pronounce Abdoujaparov (named after a famously reckless professional cyclist), still tour the world to a small yet loyal following.

Just a few weeks before he takes to the stage for a sold-out Carter USM show at Brixton Academy, in front of 5,000 devoted fans, Abdou, for short, will headline Googies in his new home town – capacity around 50.

Folkestone has long proved a draw.

A regular holiday retreat for Carter and his brother as children – they would visit their aunt every summer during their teens – Carter currently has two properties in the town; one in which he lives, the other he is on an ambitious project to renovate and rent.

The irony of the man who once sang about Sheriff Fatman – a diatribe about tyrant landlords – renting out property himself will not be lost on many.

So what did he make of his taste of rock stardom?

"It was different to what I thought. I thought we'd get to a certain stage, there would be total world domination and we'd be alright.

"I didn't realise you get there and you have to sustain it.

"I didn't think the work continued. But it becomes a job.

> **It got to the stage where we had got to where we wanted to go but in the end neither of us really liked it**
>
> **FRUITBAT,** ON ROCK STARDOM

"Then you start getting jaded. You make an album and then you have three months having to promote it. Which means eight interviews a day for weeks on end.

"Plus, the more famous you get, everyone wants to know you and everyone wants to be your friend.

"There were lots of false friends. We found out who they were the moment we started losing our popularity."

After calling time on the band over a cup of coffee, Fruitbat and Jim Bob went their separate ways. But only just. They continued to work together – touring with their new ventures, and over the years teaming up occasionally as Who's The Daddy Now to rip through a few Carter favourites for old times' sake.

Just don't expect anything new from Carter USM on the shelves soon.

"There's no desire to record anything new," he reflects. "Not enough people will buy it – even if it's brilliant people will say it's not as good as our old stuff."

■ **Abdoujaparov play at Googies in Folkestone on Saturday, October 8. For further details see www.abdou.co.uk.**

■ **For an extended version of this interview, see www.kentnews.co.uk.**

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

SHERIFF FATMAN: Les Carter, aka Fruitbat, now lives in Folkestone, where he plans to be a landlord

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News

HEALTH

Alcohol charity calls for licensing review to protect our youngsters

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

PROBLEM: Campaigners claim high numbers of off-licences have an effect on the rates of under-18s suffering alcohol-related illness

HEALTH chiefs have denied claims that towns with large numbers of off-licences are more likely to have hospitals filled with underage drinkers.

According to research by the Alcohol Concern charity, a damaging relationship exists between the number of off-licences per 100,000 of the population and the number of under-18s admitted to hospital for ailments including alcohol poisoning and intoxication.

Chief executive Don Shenker said: "It is a failing of the system that so many licences are being granted without consideration to young people's health.

"Current legislation does not give licensing committees enough power to restrict high density of licensed premises. A new health objective should be included in the Licensing Act to enable local authorities to refuse new licences in order to reduce alcohol-related harm and protect young people."

Despite the charity's claims, there appears to be little correlation between the numbers of off-licences and hospital admissions for alcohol-related illnesses in Kent.

In no borough is this clearer than in Gravesham, which has the highest density of off-licences in the county (109.3 per 100,000 of the population) but the lowest number of hospital admissions (29.8 per 100,000 of the population from 2006-07 to 2008-09).

Jess Mookherjee, assistant director for public health in Kent and Medway, said: "Young people are at higher risk of alcohol-related harm than adults because they do not have the experience to know how to drink safely, and young bodies are more vulnerable to the effects of alcohol.

"The issue is not so much about off-licences. Alcohol is cheap and available everywhere in the UK, and young people who want to get hold of alcohol can usually do so.

"It is more about young people understanding the risks of alcohol and having other, enjoyable, safer activities available to them."

The one set of figures that can be used to support the Alcohol Concern study are for Thanet, which has the third-highest number of off-licences in the county (89.4) and the most alcohol-related hospital admissions (104.2).

However, Cllr Chris Wells – Thanet council cabinet member for community services – said the statistics were distorted because the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate also accepts patients from the Canterbury and Dover districts.

"Having said that, I won't pretend we don't have issues with the night-time economy in Thanet," he added. "As a result, we're more active at reviewing licences than any other authority in Kent.

"There is a link between disadvantaged communities and drink-related problems, and that is why we use all the powers available to tackle them."

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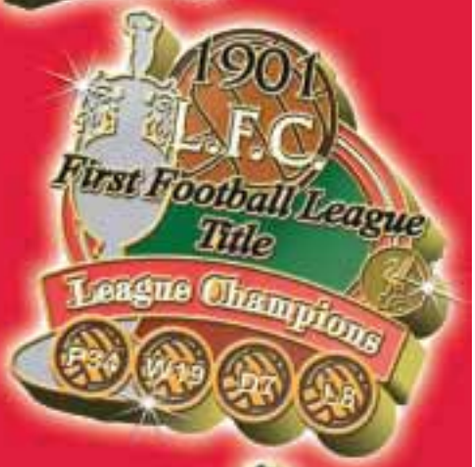

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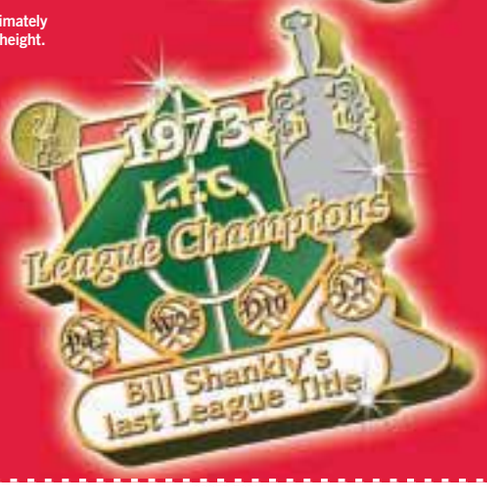

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News

AGRICULTURE

Foreign flies pose 'high' risk to Kent fruit crops

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FLIES which lay their eggs in ripening fruit, devastating crops, are threatening to invade the UK.

Now growers of soft and stone fruit across Kent are being urged to keep a special eye out for the pest.

Tell-tale signs include a breathing tube which sticks out of the fruit to allow the larvae inside to survive.

To make matters worse, the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) can easily be mistaken for a fruit fly. Unlike the fruit fly, however, it can also lay eggs in ripening, intact, fruit.

But having caused chaos across Asia, north America, Russia and mainland Europe in recent years, experts fear it could be set to hop across the Channel this year.

Now scientists at horticultural specialists East Malling Research (EMR) are offering to help commercial growers identify suspected cases.

NUISANCE: SWD flies on fruit

Dr Michelle Fountain, a leading entomologist at EMR, said: "The risk is very high. The tiny flies could come in on winds from northern France but it is more likely that they will arrive on imported fruit.

"SWD is particularly known for the damage it causes to raspberries and blueberries but it could also be a serious threat to Kent's cherries and plums.

'There is also a slight risk to other Kent-grown fruits, including grapes, blackcurrants and strawberries."

Dr Fountain said growers should be looking closely at ripening soft and stone fruits for indented scarring with telltale breathing tubes sticking out. Opening the fruit will reveal any larvae and pupae.

Adult males have a dark spot along the front edge of the wings, but the females do not have distinctive markings.

The effectiveness of insecticides on controlling adult SWD is being evaluated and affected growers may be able to take advantage of mass trapping in the future.

The Horticultural Development Company (HDC) has published a fact sheet (No 01/11) by Dr Fountain about SWD, which has been distributed widely to the UK horticulture industry.

■ **SWD, or any other non-native plant pest, should be reported to local Fera plant health and seeds inspectors, on tel 01904 465625, email planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk, web www.defra.gov.uk/fera/plants/plantHealth.**

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ENVIRONMENT

Campaigners promise protests if coal drilling leads to gas 'fracking'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

CLIMATE activists who staged 'Camp Frack' in Lancashire as part of a mass protest against a controversial drilling method have refused to rule out similar action in Kent.

The campaigners said there was "every possibility" protests would be staged if tests for coal in Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, led to 'fracking', which involves firing high-pressure liquid into rocks to force gas out.

The process was blamed for sparking earthquakes near Blackpool earlier this year and is believed to pose a threat of contamination to ground water supplies.

Last weekend, around 150 people set up camp in Lancashire in protest against moves by company Cuadrilla Resources to drill 3.5km deep to extract shale gas.

A planning application by Welsh company Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd has been submitted to Kent County Council to drill an exploratory borehole for coal in land at Woodnesborough.

Although director of the firm Gerwyn Williams stressed it was a simple test of the coal, activists fear the move could lead to hydraulic fracking if gas is found in shale rock at the site.

Phil Thornhill, national co-ordinator for Campaign Against Climate Change, said the group was waiting on the planning decision, which is expected next month.

"There's every possibility that we will take action like Camp Frack in Lancashire," he said.

"We've thought about what we could do and we will try and co-ordinate people to take action based on what happens at the planning meeting in Maidstone.

"We need to attack the issue of hydraulic fracking by working with and educating local people and addressing the problem nationally."

Camp Frack included a day of workshops on shale gas and discussions for a national campaign against the process.

Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said: "With the threat of hydraulic fracking at Woodnesborough still to be decided upon by Kent County Council, [party leader] Caroline Lucas MP is promoting an Early Day Motion in Parliament to oppose the method.

"It is the first stage of campaigning for a UK ban on fracking, something already introduced in France and South Africa due to the environmental effects of this activity."

The motion calls for a suspension of onshore and offshore exploration, development and production of coal bed methane, shale oil and shale gas by withdrawing UK licences for hydraulic fracking, until a detailed environmental impact assessment is published.

When details of the planning application for Woodnesborough were revealed earlier this year, Thanet-based Dr Alasdair Bruce warned fracking could lead to a contamination of Kent's entire water supply and also lead to a threat of earthquakes.

BORE DRAW: 'Fracking' has sparked protests

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CRIME

Son charged with the murder of his OAP dad

POLICE have formally named the man stabbed to death in Gravesend as 71-year-old Terence Wotton (pictured).

His son, Tony Wotton, 47, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, September 16, charged with his father's murder. He was remanded in custody to appear at the same court on November 25.

Terence Wotton died after suffering multiple stab wounds during an attack at the family home Mackenzie Way, Gravesend, on Monday, September 12.

Speaking on behalf of the family, his widow Joan said: "Terry was a caring, loving husband, dad, brother and grandad and he will be greatly missed by his family."

CRIME

Man, 54, charged with flashing in Mote Park

A man has been charged with outraging public decency after an allegation that he exposed himself in Mote Park.

Peter Jacobs, 54, of Northumberland Road, Maidstone, will appear before Maidstone Magistrates' Court on October 20.

It follows an incident alleged to have occurred on September 19 in the Maidstone park.

He was arrested at the scene by an off-duty police officer.

ENERGY

Pensions cash should support green energy, say protestors

FOR THE FUTURE: Campaigners argue that County Hall pension funds should to used to invest in improving green opportunities

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL campaigners have called on Kent's pension fund managers to stop investing in oil corporations and instead help grow the wind farm industry.

Last month KoS reported how plans to build a huge turbine factory in Sheerness may be scrapped unless the Government gives its full backing to the technology, thereby increasing customer confidence.

And according to Kent Green Party, pension fund managers at Kent County Council should do their bit by re-investing 106,310 shares currently placed in the oil industry.

Chairman Steve Dawe said: "Given the critical importance of the rapidly-growing offshore wind industry to Kent and Medway, and the need to fight global warming, the number of shares in oil is indefensible.

"We would like KCC to sell all its shares in oil corporations – currently worth £106 million – and invest in the offshore wind industry instead.

"This would send a clear signal to Vestas that the county welcomes its proposed 2,000-job wind turbine factory at Sheerness.

"It would demonstrate a clear lead on wind power from the council to other wind farms, leading to other jobs in the industry to add to those intended for Ramsgate as a service port for wind farms."

The cash invested by KCC comes from the £2.6 billion Kent Pension Fund, which is for 40,000 public sector workers. About £2bn of that is in stocks and shares.

Last month the council came under fire after it was revealed nearly £24m is currently invested in the tobacco industry.

The authority has also been criticised in the past for pumping money into fuel companies that undertake damaging oil sands projects abroad, despite having signed up to the United Nations' Principles of Ethical Investment.

Cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds said: "We are looking after money for a huge number of pension scheme members, so we have a responsibility to get the best possible return for them. I'm not sure it's our role to invest in speculative technology.

"We've been tremendously supportive of the wind farm industry but the oil shares have been extremely profitable for the fund.

"We are always looking to invest in Kent businesses where we can, but they have to be able to enhance the fund."

The wind factory planned for Sheerness would manufacture the new V164-7.0MW turbine, which is twice as powerful as those which sit off the coast of Thanet and has a blade span the size of the London Eye.

Cllr Simmonds pointed out that KCC had played a major role in persuading Vestas to potentially open the site in Kent.

He added: "There's been no lack of commitment as far as the council is concerned, and for Vestas to target Sheerness is a considerable success story for us. But the pension fund is a whole different ball game."

■ **See www.yourswale.co.uk for more news.**

TELEVISION

The Doctor's in town

THIS is the first picture of David Tennant filming in Margate last week for a new star-studded series of dramas for the BBC.

The Dr Who actor was on the set of Love Life, a new drama for BBC One written and directed by the award-winning Dominic Savage – who grew up in the town.

The series represents a first for the BBC as the drama is made through improvisation.

Dominic Savage said: "Margate is such a fantastic place to make a film. It has such great locations which have a real romance about them and posses a unique atmosphere which is very suited to a series of love stories. Being my home town it also has a special resonance for me."

IN LOVE: David Tennant

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Professionally choreographed to create that extra-special wow factor, these magical fashion shows will be a sensational way for you to get the very best ideas for your special day. I am very proud to be hosting this exciting two day Wedding Show at Leeds Castle and I look forward to meeting you there." *Claire Sweeney*

Photo by Gary Lake

Exhibiting at The Wedding Show

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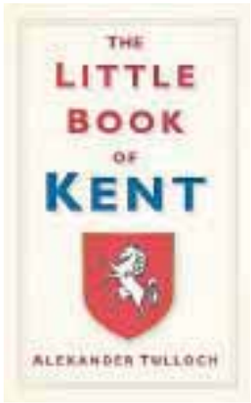
HERITAGE

Book celebrates all the forgotten little stories from our hidden history

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk



LAUREL and Hardy's modest contribution to Kent's tourist industry is one of hundreds of fascinating stories contained within a new book of facts about the county.

The legendary comedy duo – arguably the most popular act of the early Hollywood era of American cinema – attracted large crowds when they cut the ribbon at the reopening of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway following the end of World War Two.

Long forgotten by most people in the county, the story is one of many included in The Little Book of Kent alongside other tales of unusual crimes and punishments, famous inhabitants and more.

Folkestone author Alexander Tulloch, 68, spent 10 months writing the book at the same time as another about the city in which he grew up, Liverpool.

He said: "I was invited to write them by the History Press as I've done a number of similar books on areas including Essex, London and the London Underground.

"Finding all the facts involves an awful lot of reading newspaper articles and researching on the internet. Watching local television also provided me with a quite a few bits of information.

"For example, it was purely by chance that I found out about the annual custard pie throwing competition in Coxheath, near Maidstone, when I was watching the news.

"One of my favourite stories is about the author of James Bond – Ian Fleming – getting the idea for 007 from the number of the bus that goes from London to Canterbury. There's no way of checking that now because he's dead, but that's what a lot of people think.

"I find local history fascinating and I came across lots of juicy information. I hope people enjoy reading the book as much as I did researching it."

GEMS: The Little Book of Kent is packed with unusual stories, including one about Laurel and Hardy

Mr Tulloch is a retired linguist who helped train interpreters at the Ministry of Defence, and retains a passion for words and their origins.

For example, he was fascinated to learn 'moot point' is connected to the word 'mote', which is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'discussion'.

"Ightham Mote in Sevenoaks was used as a meeting place to discuss the matters of the day," he said. "I'm always particularly interested in the linguistic side of history, like finding out how towns and roads got their names and that sort of thing.

"It's often when you delve deeper that you find out interesting facts you never knew."

■ **The Little Book of Kent is published on October 3, priced at £9.99.**

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OPINION

Immigration root of housing woe

Ukip leader **Nigel Farage** attacks the Government's planning reforms and blames poor immigration control for UK's current housing shortage

IT is a truth universally acknowledged that we are suffering from a shortage of housing in this country.

The challenge comes when we scratch beneath the surface of this statement and look at how the problem has come about and, more importantly, what solutions exist to solve it.

According to the Local Government Association a record five million people are waiting for a council house, up 70 per cent on the late 1990s.

At the same time house building has fallen to the lowest level since the 1920s, with just 105,000 homes built last year.

The simple solution would seem to be to build more houses. The Government has proposed to slash existing planning laws from thousands of pages to just 52. These reforms, we are told, are driven by the social and economic need, not lobbying.

There are two points which should be raised in response to such a claim. The first is that it has been discovered the Conservative Party has accepted millions of pounds from wealthy developers who donate money and in return get to meet with senior party figures.

Tunbridge Wells MP and planning minister Greg Clark has, it has been controversially revealed, been mentioned in emails from the British Federation of Planners, saying how grateful the MP is for its lobbying which is making it very difficult for Prime Minister Cameron to perform a U-turn on the policy.

Mr Clark has been championing these changes and it has even been revealed that senior members of the house building industry helped draft wording of the Government's consultation.

Greg Clark has also not been so keen for mass building projects in previous years although the view from his charming town house is protected by an Act of Parliament.

In 2006, he campaigned ferociously against plans by the then-Labour government for an additional 6,000 homes in and around Tunbridge Wells – 'garden grabbing' as it became known – and insisted it was "a nationally imposed hike in housing numbers that will place yet more pressure on our precious green spaces".

While I agree that building projects imposed from on high are wrong, it does strike me as rather hypocritical of Mr Clark to campaign against it when in opposition, but to champion it when in government.

The fact is there would not be such a need for housing had it not been for uncontrolled immigration, supported by Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem and Green MEPs.

But until we gain back control of our borders, what we need to be doing is letting local people make decisions on housing and planning in their areas.

Parents want their children to be able to purchase homes

Parents want their children to be able to purchase homes; what they don't want is to be landed with an ugly housing estate. It's time we trusted the people again.

Ukip believes there is a lack of democratic decision-making in current planning.

Local concerns are too easily overridden by remote, unaccountable and undemocratic planning bodies and by major developers with large legal chequebooks, such as supermarkets.

Major planning schemes should not be overseen by a remote inspector, government minister or quango. Nor should major decisions on new housing and development be made by EU bureaucrats and their regional agents.

■ Nigel Farage is leader of Ukip, a Kent MEP, and lives in Westerham.

KOS COMMENT

We should treat the Gurkhas like heroes

ALDERSHOT MP Gerald Howarth should read up on the history of the Gurkha brigade, which has fought alongside British troops for almost 200 years.

Perhaps then he will realise these brave soldiers are not just asylum seekers to be dispersed around the country, but military heroes putting their lives on the line for this country.

Let's hope the Gurkha community realise how much support they have from people in Kent.

Will artwork be worth getting out of bed for?

ALTHOUGH the idea of a spectacular 'night sun' sounds like a stunning piece of artwork, you can't help but feel sorry for those people who end up dragging themselves out of bed, bleary-eyed and confused, before realising it's actually the middle of the night.

The fact the piece is called Sleepers Awake makes you wonder whether the artists are mischievous pranksters hoping to have a giggle at the expense of north Kent's sleep deprived residents.

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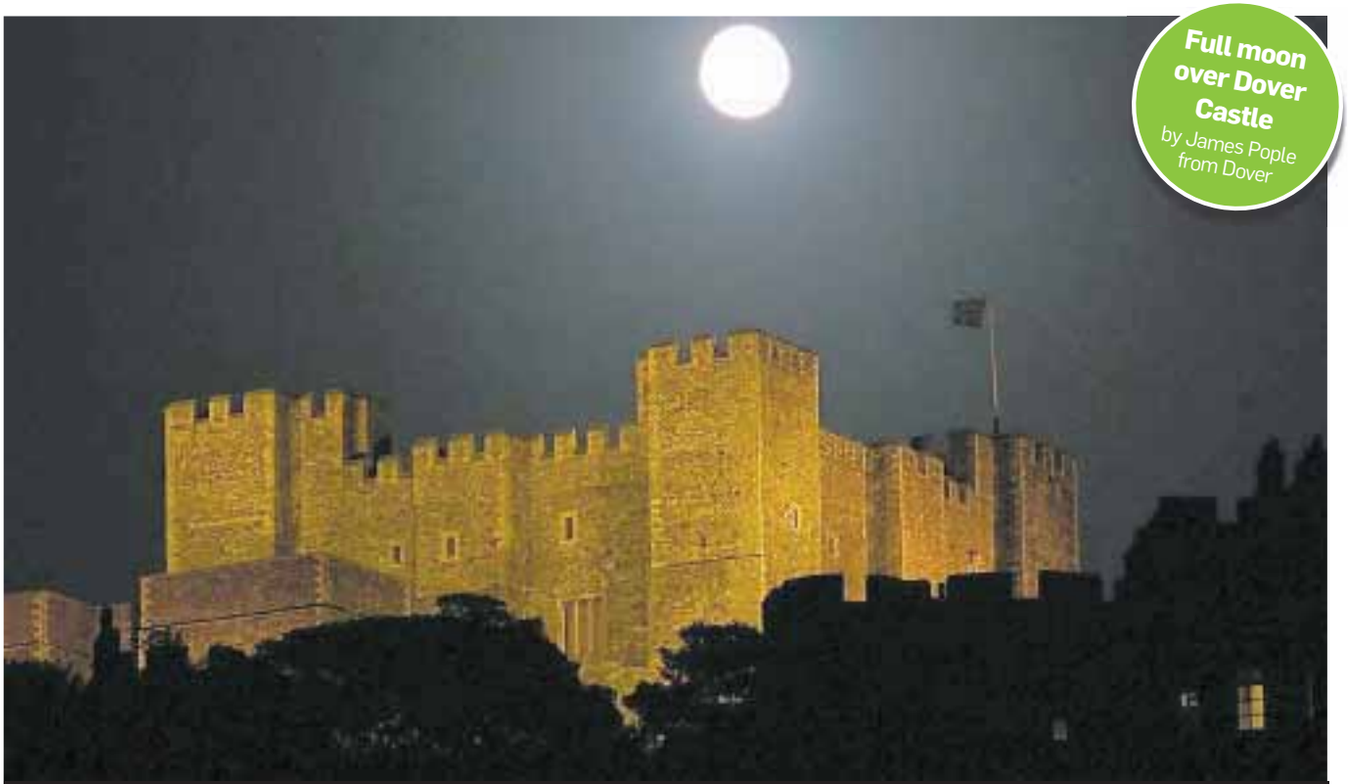

Full moon over Dover Castle
by James Pople from Dover

IMAGES OF KENT

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Take religion off curriculum

IN MY opinion the time has come to abolish assembly in schools. Children should not have religion forced on them.

They should be taught about religion, including the wars that it causes.

Schools should not be run by churches. They should be completely secular.

David Burgess, Hawkhurst

We need more homes built

UNDERNEATH the planning policy is a desire to enable building of new homes to go forward.

The present system is archaic, too restrictive, and personalised down to a system of (in Kent) 17 councillors sitting on planing committees, munching their way through a buffet fit for a king, who know nothing about water level tables or the environment.

One only has to look at economic development that was created in the UK after the last world war, with many thousand of bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians were employed.

Look at New Zealand after February's earthquake; the country was crying out for builders and labour.

With unemployment growing, and the UK being void of any real alternative production lines starting up, building is a way out, not only for economic growth, but for houses that are so desperately needed in the UK now.

Let's have a 'housing list' from all the opponents of the Government plans to see where they are currently living in and compare that to the millions who need a home, or worse living on the street.

You will see the 'not in my backyard brigade' escape back to (my bet) the countryside faster than a hare chased by whippets.

Kenneth Little, Whitstable

Disabled need our help, now

I AM extremely concerned about the current state of the care system.

It is not only failing the elderly, but those with illnesses and disabilities alike.

We should no longer tolerate a system which leaves many with no support and others with poor quality services.

A survey by the National Autistic Society found that two-thirds of adults with autism do not have the support they need, and as a result a third had developed mental health problems.

Recently, economist Andrew Dilnot released a report on how the system can be improved.

As a supporter of The National Autistic Society, I would like to appeal to our local MPs to bring this issue to Parliament and help make Mr Dilnot's suggestions a reality.

Without this, people will continue to be left to cope without the support they desperately need.

Anne May, Chalk, Gravesend

Floodlit game just not cricket

YOUR articles on Kent cricket always make interesting reading, and last week's article about the pink ball experiment is no exception.

I do, however, feel that it does not really give full weight to some of the objections of faithful Championship cricket watchers, such as my wife and myself.

The fact so few people seem to have attended the floodlit sessions of the recent game is indicative of the fact many value the ability to see a day's cricket while at the same time being able to get home at a reasonable hour for their evening meal.

We share that outlook.

Our other major objection lies in the feeling that if floodlit four-day cricket is given any countenance whatsoever, it will be the start of a process whereby it takes on the character of the one-day game, with all its thoroughly unappealing features such as coloured clothing and loud ugly music.

That is a prospect too awful to contemplate, as it will ruin the peaceful and measured tone of the game for ever.

Perhaps floodlit Test cricket has a future in countries with poor attendances and warmer climates; but we hope and pray it will never be adopted in the English County Championship.

JRG Edwards (Kent County Cricket Club life member), Birchington

Growing pain of NHS logic

THE latest debacle of hospital maternity services in Kent shows how little we should trust statements made at the top of the NHS, driven by finance and political expediency at several levels.

We in Maidstone, fighting to retain consultant-led births in our hospital, sat through endless spin sessions when NHS managers from east Kent tried to sell us the endless benefits and safety of midwife-led birthing units, even though statistics showed one-third of patients would be transferred by ambulance in labour to a full hospital unit.

Now east Kent consults on closing the birthing units at Canterbury and Dover – and talks of 'safer' options for mums-to-be having to make long journeys to Margate or Ashford.

Meanwhile, a new birthing unit has opened this month at Maidstone Hospital, but most women will have to make a journey of up to 20 miles to Pembury on very unsatisfactory country roads.

We have been saying for years this whole arrangement is unsafe, but NHS management thinks it knows better.

Just how long will the new Maidstone unit survive?

It is no more than a sop for the 250,000 population of Maidstone area.

We now await proof that the Pembury option is seriously wrong for Maidstone women. It will not take long.

Dennis Fowle, chairman MASH (Maidstone Action for Services in Hospital)

Sign e-petition to ban exports

MANY people who read Vivien Clifford's excellent letter about banning live animal exports from Ramsgate might want to know how to find the e-petition mentioned by her.

It can be found on the the Government Direct e-petition website. here is the link to the petition: http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/16024

The RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming, and Peter Skinner MEP for South East England, are backing our petition.

The petition has been open for almost two weeks and has already passed the 1,000 signature mark which shows the strength of feeling of Kent people against the awful trade happening from one of major ports.

However, to get a debate in Parliament we need 100,000 signatures, so there is long way to go.

I call upon all of your readers who are opposed to animal cruelty to sign the petition and, if they have time, to join us in Ramsgate working to stop this immoral and barbaric trade.

We have set up a facebook site called 'Stop Live Exports From The Port of Ramsgate' which is full of up-to-date information

Anyone who is interested in finding out more can email me direct on ianddriver@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Ian Driver
Thanet District and Ramsgate Town councils

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

A new index-linked bond arrives in town

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q I INTENDED to put some money into the National Savings index-linked certificates that you recommended, but I did not move fast enough and they were taken off the market. You also mentioned two other index-linked schemes available from the Post Office. Are these now the best way to link savings to inflation?

A NATIONAL Savings index-linked certificates were too good to last, unfortunately. They gave total protection against rises in the retail prices index and an annual top-up of 0.5pc, all completely tax-free. With inflation hovering around 5pc, they were definitely the best buy. And now the Post Office index-linked bonds have gone the same way. When National Savings brought down the shutters, savers turned to the Post Office and its bonds. So much cash flooded in that they have been taken off the market as well. But an interesting new rival has emerged. National Grid – the company that runs the country's gas and electricity supply network – has launched its own index-linked bond on very attractive terms. The minimum investment is £2,000. Whatever you invest is linked to the retail prices index, and the bonds pay 1.25pc interest on top. This is a 10-year investment, but the bonds will be traded on the stock market, so if you needed money in a hurry, you could simply sell your bonds and take whatever price they were worth at that time. If you hang on for the end of the 10 years, you get back your original stake plus a decade of inflation-proofing. And there is a neat twist that could give a big boost to that 1.25pc yield. It starts off as 1.25pc of however much you invest, but your investment is regularly revalued in line with inflation. If it rises, your interest rises, too. For example, invest £10,000 and you might expect interest of £125. But if inflation is 5pc, your £10,000 bond becomes worth £10,500, and your interest becomes £131 – and so on as inflation drives both your capital and interest higher. Move quickly though, if the offer appeals. Applications close on September 29, or earlier if cash pours in.

Q I WAS on holiday in Spain when I got a call to say my grandmother was seriously ill and not expected to pull through, so I flew home early. She recovered, but my holiday was spoiled so I claimed on my travel insurance. Now the insurance company has turned me down because my grandmother was ill before I left. Can I appeal?

A YOU can certainly appeal – firstly to the insurance company itself, and then if that does not work you can ask the Financial Ombudsman (0800 023 4567) to investigate. But I am not optimistic. You sent me a copy of your claim and the company's reply. Your grandmother is 89 and was seriously ill before you even booked your holiday. You have told me her condition was stable when you left for Spain, but she suffered a relapse. The insurance company knew nothing of this when you took out the policy. You knew your grandmother was ill, and if it had known, then the company would probably have refused to cover you against the cost of having to fly home, or it might have increased the premium. My bet is that the ombudsman would see it this way, too.

Q I AM approaching my 65th birthday. My employer is happy to keep me on, but the Department for Work and Pensions wants to know whether I intend to draw my state pension or defer it. Which is best?

A IF YOU defer your pension, it will rise by 1pc every five weeks. So, postpone your pension for, say, two years, and it will be more than 20pc higher for the rest of your life. But you have to live long enough to claw back the pension you decided not to draw. If folk in your family live long lives, that's fine. But if they die at 70 or so, take the money now.

Q OUR daughter will be 18 next year and we hope she will get into university, but the huge increase in fees has come as a shock. She will qualify for a loan from the Student Loans Company, but if she has to pay 9pc interest, it is hard to see how she will manage.

A HIGH fees are not good news, but things are not quite as bad as you think. The current interest rate from the Student Loans Company is 1.5pc. The 9pc figure refers to the slice of income that would have to be repaid to the company after your daughter leaves university and gets a job. And from 2012, it is only 9pc of income above £21,000 a year. Earn less, and repayments are frozen.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. Neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Heat is on for cash charges on holiday

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

A CONSUMER watchdog has launched a super-complaint over the charges being imposed on holiday-makers for using their credit and debit cards to pay for foreign currency.

Consumer Focus – one of a few bodies that can launch such an action – has called on the Office of Fair Trading to investigate what it says is complex charging and confusing information.

It estimates that customers are currently being charged about £1 billion a year for changing their money, but it is not clear how much of this is warranted and how much constitutes excessive charges.

The watchdog is asking the OFT to investigate three key areas in which it said consumers were losing out:

- the complexity and confusion surrounding charges for using debit and credit cards overseas, for purchases and cash advances.
- the imposition of charges by banks and credit card providers of withdrawal fees when customers use cards to buy travel money in the UK.
- the use of marketing phrases such as "0 pc commission" and "competitive exchange rates".

Consumer Focus said such claims made it difficult for customers to compare rates and get the best deals.

It said deals that claim to be commission-free have already had mark-ups included in the advertised rate, so were not fee-free in the way that "0 pc commission" implied.

"Almost half of us travel abroad every year and we face a confusing array of often-hidden charges every time we buy currency," said Consumer Focus chief executive Mike O'Connor.

"Converting £500 into euros can cost from under £10 to more than £30 depending on where you switch your money. This is a huge difference for essentially providing the same service, and typically banks offer the worst deals."

He added: "If holidaymakers buy their currency from the Post Office, a travel agent or a bureau de change, many are stung with cash withdrawal charges by their banks, effectively for the privilege of taking money out of their own accounts.

"Individuals buy holiday money infrequently and so may not shop around much or may just stick with the same supplier.

"A cocktail of confusing charges and poor transparency means collectively we are losing out in a big way. We are calling on the OFT to investigate and work with the industry to send these dubious and complex charges packing."

Although credit cards have often come under fire for sharp practices, it is with debit cards that the greatest variations are seen overseas – and people using them for regular purchases can be particularly badly hit.

Andrew Hagger, an analyst at Moneynet.co.uk, said: "The building societies are offering the most consumer-friendly tariffs, but it's the banks that charge a fixed fee for debit card purchases that customers need to be most wary of.

"The purchase transaction fees range from £1 (Lloyds TSB) to £1.50 (Halifax), regardless of the size of the debit card transaction, and are in addition to the 2.75pc/2.99pc foreign loading fees.

"If you're not aware of the purchase transaction costs, a holiday-maker making a large number of low-value transactions will get a nasty surprise when the post-holiday statement lands on the doormat.

"I hope the OFT grabs this opportunity to thoroughly examine the costs and profit margins associated with travel money transactions and pushes providers hard for a cheaper and more transparent service for the customer."

HOLIDAY MONEY: Are people getting a fair deal with their cards on holiday?

Warning over fresh crackdown by the taxman

HIGH earners and people with tax-avoidance schemes in place are being urged to take a look at their affairs in light of an impending crackdown by the Government.

Danny Alexander, the chief secretary to the Treasury, told the Liberal Democrat conference this week there would soon be 2,250 additional tax inspectors brought into play, and it is thought that a large number of them will target people at the upper end of the pay scale.

The move is aimed not just at tax-evaders, but at people who have taken tax-avoidance measures in good faith, but who have been unwittingly caught out by the complications within the tax system.

Penalties for underpayment of tax can be as high as 200pc of the sum owed, so people who fear they may fall foul of the new crackdown should consider approaching HM Revenue & Customs voluntarily.

Fines can still be applied if someone comes forward voluntarily, but there is usually a discount.

Graham Sillett, a tax partner at accountancy firm Lovewell Blake, said: "Of course it is right that everyone pays the correct amount of tax. Yet there is a distinction between tax evasion, which is illegal, and tax avoidance, which is legal – you can legally arrange your financial affairs to minimise the tax you pay. The problem is that tax rules are so complicated that tax avoidance can arise in ways in which HMRC did not intend."

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New state-of-the-art care home boost for elderly and jobs market

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CARING AND SHARING: Hengist Field Care Centre will boast 75 beds and provide almost 100 jobs for the people of Swale

SOME 100 new jobs have been created in Swale with the construction of a new care home, set to open in the coming weeks.

Nellsar Homes has undertaken the project in Borden, near Sittingbourne, with the construction of Hengist Field Care Centre.

The development represents a £6 million investment and will boast 75 beds for the elderly needing nursing or dementia care.

The company says it wants to set the standard for such health facilities.

Martin Barrett, marketing director for the Nellsar Group, said: "We will be recruiting heavily from the local area. We will be looking for nurses, care management professionals, care workers, maintenance staff, chefs, domestics, administrator/receptionists and activity coordinators. We will be creating around 100 jobs for this home alone.

"Nellsar Ltd is delighted to open its new flagship home in Kent – we grew our reputation here and it remains our core location. In these challenging times, it is important for us to be able to create jobs and opportunities for the local people that have supported us over the last 23 years. This facility will set the standard for care in the area."

Nellsar Homes, first established in 1988, currently operate more than 600 care beds with 14 locations across the South East. Independently owned and managed, the company is committed to achieving the highest standards of professional care and service for those in need of residential and nursing care in the community.

Hengist Field Care Centre is being built to exacting standards and will have all the facilities required for a 21st-century care home.

These will include a small cinema, a sensory room to stimulate and calm residents, an internet café for residents and relatives, a hairdressers and secure landscaped grounds.

It is being built after demand for nursing beds far outstripped demand in the immediate area.

The building project, carried out by local contractors Bryen & Langley, has taken 18 months and is on schedule for completion in October, with an opening date for the home in mid-November.

An information centre is opening fully to the public and is located in the grounds of another Nellsar home in Sittingbourne, The Woodstock Residential Home which is located at 80 Woodstock Road.

Here people are able to speak to the home manager, Beverley Therese, and get more information about services and facilities.

Nellstar already runs sites in Maidstone, Dartford, Deal and Beckenham.

INSTALLATION

£2.2 million contract gives company big lift

ORPINGTON-BASED Amalgamated Lifts, which provides lift installation, modernisation and maintenance services throughout the South East, has been awarded a £2.2 million contract for a major project including both installation and refurbishment of 30 lifts for Phoenix Community Housing's residents in Lewisham.

The project, to be carried out in four phases, is part of Phoenix Community Housing's two-year programme of major external works which started in July.

The contract will include the full refurbishment of 26 lifts and the installation of four new lifts that use drum drive technology to increase car lift space and the replacement of manual gates with automated doors making the lifts more efficient and easier to use.

This is the company's first contract with Phoenix Community Housing, most of the work will be carried out on three main sites and is due for completion within a 12-month timescale.

TRANSPORT

New rail freight link could remove 30,000 lorries a year from road

A NEW freight rail service is to serve destinations in southern Europe

Trenitalia, the leading rail operator in Italy, and Europorte, a subsidiary within the Eurotunnel Group, have concluded a new agreement establishing an international rail freight link between France and Italy.

Europorte will load grain from silos in Burgundy, providing transportation to the South East on behalf of logistics operator TMF.

The service will connect with Trenitalia at Amberieu travelling to Modane, before serving several Italian destinations.

This link will be rolled-out on the basis of five return freight loads per week, representing a total tonnage of 450,000 tonnes per annum, and will make it possible to eliminate the movement of some 30,000 freight lorries on the roads every year.

Europorte is continuing the development of its European freight network across borders with the effect of cutting down on the need for long-distance lorries. The company says this contract demonstrates not just the potential for growth of freight in France, but also the expertise of Europorte in local and national transport services.

FINANCE

New man up to Speed within SMEs market

ULTIMATE Finance Group plc a leading provider of financial solutions to small and medium enterprises has appointed Matthew Speed as regional director, South East, expanding its sales team in the region covering Kent.

Speed was formerly senior client manager at the group and has now moved to help ensure financing solutions are more widely accessible to SMEs within the region.

He has held positions at a number of banks and factoring companies, including Leumi ABL, where he became well-known to many in the sector in the south east, as well as HSBC Invoice Finance and Bank of Scotland, Asset Finance.

Speed said: "The South East is a vibrant region in terms of SMEs, and Ultimate Finance's responsive ethos and speed of decisions make it one of the leaders in the region in terms of supporting SMEs.

"Being truly independent, we are able to fit our financing solutions around each customer."

EXPANDING: Choose Leisure has bought the freehold on motorhomes site

Staycation boom good news for caravan firm

TOURISM

MOTORHOMES and caravans company Choose Leisure Limited, Canterbury, has purchased the freehold of the former Brownhills Motorhomes site on the corner of Howfield Lane and the main Ashford Road in Chartham.

The company is prospering as the 'staycation' market grows during the current economic situation and holidaying at home becomes more popular.

It also feels that Kent's geographical location can be an enormous asset in attracting the custom of those who wish to take vehicles into Europe.

The site along the A28, whose previous occupiers include Dutton Forshaw and Brownhills Motorhomes, has stood empty for over two years since May 2009. The deal completed earlier this month.

Choose Leisure was established three years ago on its current rented site just next door on what used to be a petrol service station on Ashford Road.

Selling used motorhomes and caravans, carrying out habitation servicing and repairs and pioneering the concept of 'motorhome brokerage', it has developed steadily since then.

Choose Leisure managing director Paul Santos said: "We started the business right at the start of the recession which some people, including myself at times, thought was crazy but it means that we have been forced to develop with a tight control over costs which I don't think is necessarily a bad business practice anyway.

"We've also had some good fortune in that the whole 'staycation' movement, and the fact that people aren't earning much interest on savings, has kept the motorhome and caravan industry relatively buoyant."

"The business has grown since we set it up three years ago and the new site gives us more space, an indoor showroom and more workshop capacity.

"We'll move in gradually, as the site needs clearing, and we are all really excited about the future opportunities this purpose-built facility will bring – both for us as a business and for our customers."

The South East lost two national motorhome dealers back in 2009 when both Brownhills of Chartham and Discover Leisure based at Reculver closed their sites.

Choose Leisure now employs nine staff, seven of whom had worked for these companies.

Young photographer snaps up grant offer

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A TEENAGE photographer has become the youngest person to receive a start up business grant from Medway Council.

Katie Blench, 18, from Gillingham, was awarded a £1,000 grant from the council to help get her business, Katie Blench Photography, off the ground.

The young entrepreneur set up the business after taking to photography as a hobby and after work experience with a professional photographer, realised she'd found her perfect career.

Working from her family home in Nelson Road, Blench has her own studio with professional lighting and already boasts a portfolio of pet portraits and weddings to shoots for bands and models.

The Partners for Growth start-up scheme offers budding entrepreneurs a grant of up to £1,000 that can be used to fund initial start-up costs for example rent, stock, vehicles or promotion.

The former Chatham Grammar School for Girls pupil completed a foundation degree in photography at North West Kent College in Dartford in June 2010. Determined to succeed, she wasn't fazed by the challenges of going it alone in the business world.

"Setting up the business wasn't a difficult decision at all. I had several nine to five office jobs after leaving college and knew they just weren't for me. I have a genuine passion for photography and love it when people enjoy themselves on my shoots."

Blench will put the grant towards a new camera and a mobile generator to allow her to take her shoots outside of the studio and on location.

She said: "The grant has meant I haven't had to worry about money for a while and being the youngest person to be offered one was a great confidence boost in my ability and my business plan.

"I hope it will mean I can inspire more young people to pursue their dreams."

IN THE PICTURE: Katie Blench, pictured in a self-portrait, has set up her business with the help of a £1,000 grant from Medway Council

In the future, Blench is looking to invest in her own studio away from home as well as hiring an assistant for shoots and receptionist to manage bookings.

As part of the Partners for Growth scheme, she was also provided with courses through the council's Business Link service.

These included bookkeeping and one to one business advice meetings. She will also receive on-going mentoring to assist the growth of her business.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Jane Chitty, said: "Katie is a real inspiration to all young people with entrepreneurial spirit and an example of how, with ambition and hard work, you can realise your dreams and start up your own business.

"Our start up grants are about helping local people with obvious talent find their feet and get their business off the ground, as well as giving them the tools to help their business grow and create jobs and opportunities in the future. I wish Katie every success."

Eco-trippers welcomed at port

BIO-FUEL

THE Port of Dover welcomed a recycled truck made from trash and powered by used cooking oil when it arrived after completing a two-year trip around the world covering 30,000 kilometres.

Andy Pag and Christina Ammon chose the cross channel and cruise port as the UK stop for their 22 year old converted Mercedes bus before continuing its journey via Europe to Africa.

They felt Dover was the ideal place to mark the UK stage of their journey as, like the bio-truck, the Port's own combined heating and power plant installed in 2009 is also powered by used vegetable cooking oil.

Port of Dover environmental officer, Vicki Case said; "We were delighted to support such an unusual and interesting project, especially as it is technology that we have employed at the port as part of our drive for port environmental sustainability."

Pag said: "It's not the first eco-adventure I've tried. In 2007 I drove a 'chocolate powered lorry' to Timbuktu using biodiesel made from waste cocoa butter, and a year later I organised the Grease to Greece Rally across Europe for cars converted to run on restaurant waste fryer oil.

"This current trip is part of that ongoing experiment to find a sustainable way of travelling."

Deadline set for VAT registration

VAT

VAT rule-breakers have until Friday (September 30) to register to pay what they owe under an HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) campaign.

The new campaign focuses on individuals and businesses trading above the VAT registration threshold – a turnover of £73,000 – but who have not registered.

Target sectors include: construction, business services, hair and beauty, hotels and catering, retail distribution, recreational services, motor vehicle distribution and repair, sanitary and domestic services, agriculture and horticulture, property and road haulage.

Under the terms of the VAT Initiative, those who have not registered to pay VAT can come forward any time up to 30 September to tell HMRC that they want to take part. If they make a full disclosure, most will face a low penalty rate of 10 per cent on VAT that has been paid late.

After 30 September, using information pulled together from different sources, HMRC will investigate those who have failed to come forward. Substantial penalties and even criminal prosecution could follow.

Mike Wells, director of risk and intelligence at HMRC, said: "Most people do register for, and pay, the correct amount of VAT. This isn't about honest taxpayers, who have nothing to fear from any of our campaigns.

"But we are committed to ensuring tax is paid so that the maximum is available for public services used by everyone.

"I therefore urge people who have not registered their businesses for VAT to get in touch with HMRC and get their tax affairs in order simply, and on the best terms available."

To use the VAT Initiative, people and businesses must:

- Register with HMRC by September 30 to "notify" that they plan to make a voluntary VAT disclosure; and
- Tell HMRC about VAT due and make arrangements to pay it, as well as any penalties due, by December 31.

Numbers add up as data management business continues to buck economic trend

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

INFORMATION management software and solutions specialists Entity Group has taken on eight new employees to help manage an increasing workload.

The enterprise data management solutions provider has also increased its Kent Science Park headquarters by a third after leasing an extra 1,100 sq ft of office space.

Entity Group Ltd CEO Chris Finlay said the additional employees and space were needed to meet increased demand from the company's customers in both the UK and overseas.

"Our headcount is growing in line with our major expansion plans, enhancing our capabilities to deliver comprehensive solutions assisting corporate customers to capitalise on the existing data within their businesses.

"To cope with demand we have had to add technical, consulting and project management headcount to our business," he said.

"We have expanded the business by eight people so far, but have plans to grow further as our project pipeline currently stands at £1.7 million, but is increasing rapidly.

"While the general economy is still troubled, in our chosen disciplines of information management we are finding strong demand from finance, insurance, education, Government and healthcare organisations in the UK and abroad in countries such as the Netherlands and Belgium and even Abu Dhabi and South Aftrica."

Kent Science Park site director James Speck said: "Entity Group's expansion is typical of what we are seeing across the park. Many of the 60 businesses on site are looking to add to the combined skilled workforce – which currently stands at 1,200 – and we are assisting them in providing all the additional space they require."

Finlay added: "Kent Science Park is ideal for a business such as ours, allowing us to grow our offices as we progress our expansion plans.

"Our headcount is growing in line with our major expansion plans

CHRIS FINLAY, CEO ENTITY GROUP

"Despite our more recent growth we are still a relatively small company, but with the facilities and services of a major organisation."

Entity is a software solutions company focused on high-end data management solutions. It has a 20-year track record of resolving large scale and richly-complex business problems for blue chip organisations.

It provides, data management, solution analysis, design and development, software products, business and technical consulting, software systems integration, software implementation, and support for clients in the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

GROWING ALONG NICELY: The Entity Group has recently taken on eight new members of staff and increased its headquarters by a third at the Kent Science Park

Behind-the-scenes visit to port an education for engineering students

THE Port of Dover hosted 30 students from international engineering company Tony Gee and Partners, who are currently studying civil engineering at university, and who visited for the day as part of their Student Visits' week.

After an induction, the group visited the Terminal Control Centre, responsible for all landside activity followed by Port Control which manages all marine activity where the students were able to witness the work required to keep Europe's busiest RoRo ferry terminal operating efficiently.

Presentations followed, given by duty harbour master Simon Moore and landside terminal manager Andy Rintoul, when the students were also given a chance to contribute their own ideas to engineering plans.

With a view to demonstrating the practical side of work at the port, a visit was made to piers A and E.

Pier A, to be extended in 2012, will also see a new fendering system installed and senior engineer David Harrison explained the reasons for the extension and talked about the design and construction.

Development engineer, Michael Grace discussed the 3 Berth upgrade project and what was involved in order for successful completion.

A visit to pier E, which has recently been lengthened then followed.

Nigel Bodell, Port of Dover's head of engineering development – project planning and delivery, said, "It was a pleasure to host a visit for such a large group of enthusiastic young engineers who were able to experience first-hand the management of marine and civil engineering projects in an intense operational environment.

"They were able to view the general aspects of port layout design and it offered an ideal opportunity to explain a number of exciting and innovative future developments in Europe's busiest RoRo port."

DOCKING STATION: The Tony Gee and Partners engineering students who visited the Port of Dover

The visit bought home to the students the scale of the work at the busy port.

Gareth Drought of Tony Gee said," To enable our budding engineers the opportunity to experience first-hand the operations at Dover was beneficial in many ways.

"Not only did they witness the sheer scale of operations and the logistical challenges faced by such a busy port from the control tower, they also got a feel for the type of civil engineering projects they could be involved in, in years to come.

"We were made very welcome during the day and to hear about the plans for the development was a real eye opener.

"We are extremely grateful to the team for offering our students a glimpse into this fascinating world."

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Keep Kent Working!
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Cash boost to cover firms' training costs

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

MEDWAY Council has launched a £200,000 fund to help more young people into apprenticeships.

The money, half of which was provided by the European Union, aims to boost the number of apprenticeships in the towns by offering subsidies of £2,000 each to help local businesses.

Paid directly to the training provider for the apprentice, the subsidy can be used to either help the employer pay the apprentice's wages or, if they are over 19, to fund their training costs.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "As a former apprentice myself, I can only speak too highly of the real value of an apprenticeship.

"They are not only good for people who want to get ahead and gain invaluable skills, but they're also good for business and for the growth of our economy in Medway."

The fund is the most recent investment in apprentices in Medway, and will follow on from the 100 in 100 Apprenticeship Challenge launched last May.

Businesses that have pledged to take part in the challenge – which aims to recruit 100 apprentices in 100 days – will also be able to apply for the new grant.

The council's Employ Medway team will work alongside the Connexions support service for young people to help identify possible candidates for an apprenticeship, such as those who are unemployed and looking for work.

Cllr Chambers added: "We really are committed to driving up economic growth here in Medway and giving both businesses and the apprentices themselves the tools they need to grow, develop skills and succeed."

Targeted towards businesses with less than 50 employees across a range of priority sectors – including construction, engineering, horticulture, travel and tourism, and the creative industries – the subsidy aims to help bolster economic growth in Medway while also tackling youth unemployment.

The Government will fund the full training of any apprentice aged 16-18 and half for those aged 19-24, but the number of young people classed as Neet – not in employment, education or training – has risen to more than 18 per cent in England.

Labour says this problem should be tackled by the Government only offering public sector contracts to businesses that have apprenticeship schemes in place.

Shadow business secretary John Denham said: "At a time when record numbers of young people are out of work and facing a challenging future, the Tory-led Government should be doing everything it can to support opportunities, helping young people to improve their skills and get good jobs.

"It could take immediate action by supporting the creation of thousands of apprenticeships in companies that provide services to Government including construction projects."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

SUPPORT: Many small firms struggle to pay for apprenticeships by themselves

Club gives hope to school leavers

CHARLTON Athletic Community Trust has opened an alternative education facility in New Romney.

The Youth Achievement Foundation (YAF) facility is for young people who have not succeeded in mainstream school and is based at the Romney Resource Centre.

The curriculum delivered by the trust focuses on personal development and employability skills, with all students required to study maths, English, ICT, PSHE (personal, social and health education) and careers.

A range of other courses are also on offer including motor vehicle maintenance, construction, hair and beauty, catering, sailing, horse-riding, boxing, physical arts and more.

The YAF is the second to be set up by the trust following the success of the original in Greenwich, south-east London.

Chief executive Jason Morgan said: "We should not give up on these young people who have fallen out of education because there are alternative ways to motivate them."

Super Nova lands CIPS membership

A PROCUREMENT specialist at Dungeness B power station has become the first in her class to qualify for membership of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS).

Nova Jarvis also achieved a Professional in Purchasing and Supply (PiPS) Diploma – awarded to the top five per cent of students in the country – after completing a bespoke programme developed by Clarity in partnership with EDF Energy.

She said: "I am grateful to EDF for giving me the opportunity to do the course. I feel it is important to do something outside your normal areas of work because it keeps you fresh and keeps your mind active.

"I have learned a tremendous amount and am more confident in the role I am doing. My job has required a steady learning curve and the study for the CIPS has proved invaluable."

The Clarity programme has so far provided for 10 supply chain professionals at Dungeness B to study via the firm's online academy, with an 18-month modular course having started last May.

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College to host stewarding course with Olympics just months away

A STEWARDING course that teaches people how to work at events including the Olympics, Glastonbury and Wimbledon is due to be held at Canterbury College.

With the London Olympics now less than a year away, demand for stewards to help manage crowds at the various events is high.

Participants will learn how to prepare for, monitor and control crowds, how to respond to potential problems, and what to do in an emergency or if somebody is injured.

The three-day course, which is free for 16 to 18-year-olds, teaches a national qualification that will make people eligible to steward the country's biggest events.

There will also be opportunities to undertake paid work experience at major sporting events to improve participants' future employment prospects.

The course runs from Tuesday, October 25 to Thursday, October 27, plus two additional Saturday morning sessions depending on prior knowledge and qualifications.

Special evening courses are also available for youth clubs and any other relevant organisations.

The course costs £182 for students aged 19 and over. Spaces are limited so those interested are urged to apply now by calling 01227 811188 or visiting www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/steward.

Sportsman aims high for online project

A TALENTED basketball player who set up a business to help others gain exclusive sports scholarships has been named one of Britain's best black students.

Stephan Eyeson, 22, who is about to start his third year studying theology and health at Canterbury Christ Church University, missed out on three full-time basketball scholarships at American universities due to administrative delays.

His disappointment led to him setting up Get Pro Basketball, which enables players to promote themselves to coaches and agents across the world via a dedicated website.

Today one-in-three youngsters using the service get signed up to American colleges, academies and agents.

Stephan, from Luton in Bedfordshire, was one of 10 students recognised as a 'Rising Star' at an awards ceremony in London organised by the diversity recruitment firm Rare.

He said: "I'm delighted to have been given such fantastic recognition for the work I've been doing among several other outstanding black students in the country.

"It was an honour to attend such a prestigious award ceremony at the Palace of Westminster and I'm extremely proud to have been able to represent Canterbury Christ Church University at the same time.

"It's extremely satisfying to know my current Get Pro business stands up against other professional enterprises and I hope to achieve similar success with my new online project."

STAR: Christ Church student Stephan Eyeson

The project Stephan refers to is BeforeUni.com, which aims to help students apply for work experience and apprenticeships before entering higher education. The site will launch fully in 2012.

Rising Star judge David Lammy – the Labour MP for Tottenham – said: "At a time when media focus has been on the behaviour of a very small minority of young people, the stories of these Stars should serve as inspiration for us all, and an encouragement that contrary to some opinions, this is not a lost generation. I am very proud of their achievements."

Staff and students say farewell to professor who helped form UCA

THE vice-chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts is due to retire this week.

Professor Elaine Thomas was originally appointed as the director of the Surrey Institute of Art and Design in 2000, and helped oversee the creation of the university when it merged with other institutes in Canterbury, Rochester and Maidstone.

In her retirement she hopes to travel and devote more time to her own creative work as a fine artist, and will be replaced as vice-chancellor by Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr.

Prof Thomas said: "I am immensely proud of my time at UCA. In creating a specialist arts university we have made a huge difference in the way art and design subjects are perceived.

"One of the biggest achievements has been the development of cutting-edge research. Historically this has been seen as the preserve of the sciences but we have challenged that view, steadily moving up the national rankings and taking a place in the top 10 institutions for art and design research."

Of her own artwork plans, Prof Thomas added: "Over the last few years I've been building up a reserve of ideas in my head. Now it's time to get them down on canvas."

In June, Prof Thomas received a CBE from the Queen for her outstanding contribution to the creative arts.

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District: Ashford

COOPERS LANE, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavations to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coopers Lane, Mersham, on or after 26 September 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Frithfield Farm.

The alternative route is via Frith Road, Chequer Tree Farm Road and Colliers Hill.

GRIGSBY LANE, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavations to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grigsby Lane, Smarden, on or after 26 September 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Thorn Farm.

The alternative route is via Biddenden Road, Bethersden Road and Luckhurst Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District: Canterbury

A28 WINCHEAP / THANINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Wincheap / Thanington Road, Canterbury, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 15 nights or until the works have been completed.

The planned work times are between 8.00 pm and midnight, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Ten Perch Road and Simmonds Road.

The alternative route is via Ten Rerch Road, The Boundary, Cotton Road, Cow Lane and Simmonds Road.

Local side roads will be closed at their junctions with Wincheap at certain times as the works progress. This will be signposted on site, with local diversions.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of York Road when it is closed at the junction with Wincheap, to allow traffic to exit.

HIGHWAYS - District: Dover

A258 DEAL ROAD, WORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A258 Deal Road, Worth, on or after 16 October 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Jubilee Road, Worth.

There will be no access for through traffic between Deal and Sandwich using the A258.

The alternative route is via A258 Deal Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Eastry By-pass, Whitfield By-pass, Dover Road, A2 between A256 Junction and Duke of York Roundabout, A258 Deal Road, Dover Road, The Strand, Victoria Road, Ranelagh Road, (Deal Castle Road in reverse), Prince of Wales Terrace, Broad Street, Queen Street and London Road.

A256 YORK STREET, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting northbound traffic on the A256 York Street, Dover, on or after 11 October 2011 for up to 5 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The ***northbound*** carriageway of York Street will be closed for its entire length between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each week day and road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route is via A20 Snargate Street, Limekiln Street, Archcliffe Road, A20 Trunk Road and B2011 Folkestone Road.

Durham Hill will be closed at the junction with York Street, with a local diversion via North Military Road and South Military Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Maison Dieu Road will be suspended between the junctions with Castle Street and Pencester Road for up to 7 days. This only applies to buses on stage carriage services and access for residents on the south western side of this section of road.

There will be No Right Turn from Dieu Stone Lane into Maison Dieu Road, and traffic will need to turn left.

HIGHWAYS - In the Borough of Gravesham

SHEPHERD STREET, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Shepherd Street, Gravesend between Salem Place and Dover Road.

The Order will become effective on 10th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

Dover Road (southbound), Vale Road, A226 Thames Way, Springhead Road, York Road and Shepherd Street.

Dover Road (northbound), B2175 The Hill, Springhead Road and Shepherd Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a gas main.

HIGHWAYS - In the Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by traffic on the sections of road as detailed below:-

Fairmeadow into High Street, Maidstone - Prohibition of traffic with the exception of buses and taxis. The alternative route for access to High Street/Mill Street will be via Earl Street and Pudding Lane.

Pudding Lane into High Street, Maidstone - Prohibition of traffic with the exception of buses, taxis, disabled badge holders and for access to off street premises. Access for loading will be permitted between the times 5.30pm to 10.30am.

The Order will come into operation on Friday 14th October 2011 and will be in use when required as indicated by signage on site over a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

Eurovia Contracting Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for the construction of the Maidstone High Street Public Realm Project. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Matthew Taylor on 01622 754383

HIGHWAYS - In the District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF SWALE) (VARIOUS ROADS, SITTINGBOURNE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 1) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called 'the Act') and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the Order will introduce waiting restrictions on the following roads or lengths of road:

Sonora Way - Both sides, from its junction with Staplehurst Road, for a distance of 150 metres extending into the junction arms of Cinnabar Drive and Quartz Way.

Jacinth Drive - Both sides, from a point level with the western end of the traffic island outside 46 Jacinth Drive, in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 150 metres and 146 metres on its southwest and northeast sides respectively, including the junction arms into Quartz Way and Sonora Way.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District: Thanet

MAYNARD AVENUE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new wastewater connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maynard Avenue, Margate, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Westfield Road.

The alternative route is via B2052 George V Avenue and Westfield Road.

A256 RICHBOROUGH WAY & A299 HENGIST WAY, MINSTER (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the construction of the East Kent Access road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on the A256 Richborough Way & A299 Hengist Way, Minster, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are the A256 'Richborough Way' from Ebbsfleet Roundabout to and including the new Sevenscore Roundabout, and the new A299 'Hengist Way' from Sevenscore Roundabout to a point approximately 20 metres south of Cliffsend Roundabout.

A256 SANDWICH ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the construction of a new junction on the south side of the Lord of the Manor Interchange and tie this into Sandwich Road, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate, on or after 26 September 2011 for up to 14 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the existing Lord of the Manor southern roundabout to and including the junction with Cliffs End Road.

The alternative route is via the New A256 'Richborough Way' to Sevenscore Roundabout, New A299 'Hengist Way' to Cliffsend Roundabout and A299 Canterbury Road West.

HIGHWAYS - In the Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BUS LANE, RAILWAY STATION, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the bus lane outside of Tonbridge Railway Station on or after Monday 10th October 2011 when required for a period of up to 25 weeks or until such works are complete.

John Sisk & Son Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow station refurbishment works to be carried out safely. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Frank Uzokwe on 01727 875551.

HIGHWAYS - In the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WAGON LANE & LUCKS LANE, LEVEL CROSSINGS, PADDOCK WOOD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Wagon Lane between 08.00hrs and 13.00hrs and Lucks Lane between 13.15hrs and 18.00hrs at the level crossing on or after Sunday 2nd October 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Wagon Lane is via Wagon Lane, Queen Street, Lucks Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane and for Lucks Lane via Queen Street, Wagon Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Lucks Lane.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused, which is necessary for repairs to the level crossings and reinstating white lining. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Emma Osborne on 07791 179882.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 25th September 2011

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hilton Dartford Bridge, Crossways Business Park, Masthead Close, Dartford**
Applicant: **Ashraf Nabih**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Howfield Manor Hotel, Howfield Lane, Chartham Hatch**
Applicant: **Paul Sharma**
Name of Premises: **House of Agnes, 71 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Sandie De Rougemont**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **West Heath Centre, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks**
Applicant: **Christina Wells**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Elite Venue Centre, Dunkirk Close, Gravesend**
Applicant: **Jagdip Bhathal**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/01463/FUL: 29 Whitstable Road, Blean, CT2 9EA Two-storey side and single-storey rear extension to dwelling, front porch and wall with railings to front boundary. **Applicant: Mr Roger Scantlebury** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01472/ADV: Unit 21, Marlowe Arcade, Canterbury, CT2 8QP Installation of internally illuminated fascia sign. **Applicant: Swarovski UK Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01486/LB: 2-3 St Peter's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AT Internal alterations. **Applicant: Tasty Plc** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01494/FUL: Retail Unit 4, Bank Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5EY Change of use from retail (Use Class A1) to cafe (Use Class A3). **Applicant: Mrs Caldwell-Barr** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01530/LB: 28 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AZ Installation of new ventilation grille to glazing above existing entrance door serving upper floor flats. **Applicant: Quinn Estates Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01532/FUL: 69 Gordon Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QX Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/08/0964/FUL for a vehicle crossover in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Mr Daniel Wilds** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01535/FUL: 5 Homeside Farm, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6AR Erection of single-storey side extension and porch to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Watts** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01550/FUL: 6A New Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5AH Two-storey extension to front of fitness studio and first-floor extension to rear. **Applicant: Mr Richard Feakins** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01551/FUL: 2 Park Farm Bungalows, Summer Lane, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NH First-floor extension to side of dwelling and loft conversion incorporating higher ridge height. **Applicant: Mr Holness** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 17 October 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 23 September 2011

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/02502/FUL **Jarvis House 43 Dudley Road, Culverden**
- Conversion of offices to 5no one bed flats (LB)(CA)

11/02766/HOUSE **Quetlaw North Road, Goudhurst**
- Nine photo-voltaic solar panels on roof (CA)

11/02353/HOUSE **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing rear garden room/bedroom and outbuildings and replacement with single storey snug/living room extension. First floor rear extension over kitchen (LB)

11/02356/LBC **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing garden room/bedroom and outbuildings and replacement with single storey snug/living room extension. First floor rear extension over kitchen (LB)

11/02498/FUL **The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Relocation of the existing alarm box antenna to a height of 7.3m above ground level (CA)(LB) (MAST)

11/02505/LBC **The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed building consent - Relocation of the existing alarm box antenna to a height of 7.3m above ground level (LB)

11/02730/LBC **La Casa Vecchia & The Grey Lady 70 - 72 The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations comprising removal of oak post and replacement of oak beam; removal of suspended ceiling to first floor landing with replacement ceiling fixed to underside of existing joists (LB)

11/02566/FUL **Hoopers Ltd 2 - 12 Mount Pleasant Road, Park**
- Alterations to entrance doorway details (CA)

11/02755/FUL **Calverley Grounds Mount Pleasant Avenue, Park**
- Temporary change of use for siting of ice rink, skate change marquee, lighting and associated equipment (CA)

11/02763/FUL **Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**
- Erection of single-storey dwelling together with erection of 2 metre high boundary fence and landscaping (CA)

11/02681/HOUSE **36 Henwood Green Road Pembury, Pembury**
- Two storey rear and side extensions and conversion and extension of outbuilding to form annexe (LB)

11/02167/FUL **Tunbridge Wells Golf Club Langton Road, Rusthall**
- 27m high lattice tower supporting 6 x 3m high antennas and supports, with 1 equipment cabinet and 1 slimline meter cabinet contained within a fenced compound fronted by new planting and development ancillary thereto (CA)(MAST)

11/02725/HOUSE **West High View Cottage Queen Street, Sandhurst**
- Single-storey detached garden store/workshop (CA)(LB)

11/02705/HOUSE **10 Sheffield Road Southborough, Southborough North**
- Loft conversion with rear dormer, two rooflights to front elevation and new window to side gable (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 24 September 2011

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Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 29 September 2011.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

KCC/SH/0381/2011 - Proposed development at Dungeness Borrow Pit, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent, TN29 9NA.

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for shingle recycling for the purpose of flood defence. The application is accompanied by an environmental statement.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Halcrow Group, Burderop Park, Swindon SN4 0QD so long as stocks last, at a charge of £70.00. Copies of the non-technical summary are also available free of charge, whilst stocks last.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 25th September 2011

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1100/S - THE OLD PARSONAGE, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PF - Erection of an oak framed garage and store. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1213/N - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, SESSIONS HOUSE, COUNTY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1XQ - Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing window and enlargement of existing rear door to main equipment room. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1326/S - SENACRE TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9BJ - Construction of 84 dwellings with associated garages (Amendments to house types previously approved under part of reserved matters consent MA/08/2489 for the construction of 357 dwellings and part of planning consents MA/10/0486 for the construction of 14 dwellings and MA/10/1413 Construction of 77 dwellings). **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1331/N - COURT FARM, YELSTED LANE, SITTINGBOURNE, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7UT - First floor extension comprising increase in ridge height of roof and introduction of first floor windows to north and south elevations and roof lights to east and west elevations, and erection of two storey extension to the front (west) elevation and conversion of existing integral garage to additional living accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1336/N - MADAM TAYLORS COTTAGES, OTHAM STREET, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RP - Listed Building consent for alterations to fenestration approved under MA/09/2093 (first floor front extension, pitched roof built up around middle chimney and alterations to fenestration). **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1340/S - ELPHICKS BARN, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SG - Erection of a single storey side extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1366/N - HANTESA, PILGRIMS WAY, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1UT - Proposed replacement dwelling. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1384/N - BEARSTED AND THURNHAM STATION, WARE STREET, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4PH - Change of use from station master's house to child day care centre (Use Class D1). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1400/S - CHEQUERS, 20, HIGH STREET, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NE - Application for listed building consent for the installation of boiler flues , tumble dryer vent and insertion of replacement window and doors to replace window. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1485/N - 1, FLINT COTTAGES, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RY - Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing kitchen addition (resubmission of MA/11/0521). **Reason: 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **9th October 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 25th September 2011

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003:

An application for variation has been made by: The Pantiles, trading as Targetfollow (The Pantiles) Ltd

For the premises: The Bandstand, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5TW

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening are as follows;

To vary the terminal hour of the following licensable activities outdoors;

e) Live Music
f) Recorded Music
g) Performance of dance
h) Anything of a similar description of that of (e), (f) or (g)

To add the provision of entertainment facilities outdoors;

j) Dancing
k) Entertainment of a similar description to that falling within (i) or (j)

On Monday to Saturday 10.00 to 22.00 and from 22.00 to 00.30 on New Year's Eve only.

Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing on or before 12.10.11 to **Licensing Partnership, PO Box 182, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1GP**

Licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing

Representations received after this time will not be considered

Notice to be displayed for 28 days from 15.9.11 to 12.10.11

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000

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LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

We John Meredith Freeman and Julie Reeman hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for the grant of a premises license for the following licensable activity;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail

In respect of the premises situated at Pilgrims Way, Thurnham, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3LD and to be known by the sign of The Thurnham Suite. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council ,Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m - Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 11th October 2011.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent. ME19 5QP

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Sarah Lehane and Julia Pattison of The Whitstable Diner has applied to Canterbury City Council for the Grant of A Late Night Licence for a catering trailer to provide refreshments for the public between the hours of 22:00 - 3:00am Fri - Sun. for the premises of The Whitstable Diner situated at The Oyster Fishery company East Quay, The Harbour, Whitstable CT5 1AB.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http:/www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CTI IYW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 13/10/2011

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain, Representations must relate to one of the tour Licensing Objectives the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. in the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

To advertise in this section
01303 817150

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - City of Canterbury

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAYS CB199 AND CB202

IN THE PARISH OF ADISHAM

BYWAYS CB199 AND CB202 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Byways CB199 and CB202 to all traffic from 11th September 2011

CB199 will be closed from Woodlands Road to its junction with CB202 a distance of approximately 1200 metres

Byway CB202 will be closed to vehicular traffic (other than cycles) between The Street and Adisham Road a distance of approximately 1850 metres

Safe alternative provision will be made for non-vehicular traffic and cycles around working areas, where possible.

The highways will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The highways are to be closed because works are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 25 September 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

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Kent County Council

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

FRAY
Jacob Anthony George Fray born on the 7th September 2011, weighing 6lbs 3ozs. Son to Matthew and Natalie in Ramsgate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

LEONARD
Chris and Zoe of Aylesham are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Paris Pamela Kathleen. Paris was born at Buckland Hospital , Dover on 8th September at 5.45am weighing 6lb 11oz.. A sister for Callum, Cameron, Ben and Bobby.

ORSZULAK
Kamila and Artur Orszulak celebrate the birth of their son Filip Orszulak on 9th September 2011.

RAI
Devan Singh born on the 9th August 2011 weighing 9lbs 9oz. Son of Kelly and Jazz from Maidstone.

SHEN
Kai and Lin celebrate the birth of their first daughter Isabella Wanqi on 1st September 2011.

TREDWEN
Matthew and Emily are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Elizabeth Ann on 9th September 2011, weighing 8lb 5oz.

WINNARD
Sam and Amanda of Sittingbourne celebrate the birth of their son Henry Christopher Winnard on 11th September 2011.
Our most beautiful and precious son.

DEATHS

MOOREY
Iris Moorey, taken 26th August but reunited with her husband Tom after 30 years of being without him. Nan you will be missed by us all, but always in our thoughts. You were a great mum, mother-in-law, nan, great nan and friend. Love you always xxxxxxxx

SALMON
Madge Salmon passed away on 1st September 2011 peacefully at Barty House. The funeral took place on 16th September. Sadly missed by family and friends.

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Monaco & Nice Christmas Lights & Markets

by rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

Quote MR12-KOS

Was £429
Now £399pp

December 9 to 12, 2011

Our big-little-adventure combines the glamour of the French Riviera and Monaco with the thrill of European rail travel. Travelling by Eurostar, then the swift TGV to Nice on the French Riviera, the journey promises to be as exciting as the places we will visit. Monaco really sparkles at Christmas time as twinkling lights and festive decorations create a magical air. Nice hosts a charming Christmas Market with chalets offering regional handicrafts and gifts, including Provençal specialities such as honey, lavender and nativity figurines.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice, southern France (Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request)
- 3 nights, 3 star hotel B&B in Nice
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco

Warner Drinks Inclusive Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight - Self drive

3 nights, semi-all-inclusive

Quote NX11-KOS

Was £209
Now £199pp

November 25 to 28, 2011

Come and join our exclusive, annual Christmas party - for over 40s only - at Warner Norton Grange resort on Yarmouth seafront, Isle of Wight.

With a friendly, cosy atmosphere this popular Warner resort serves up a host of festive season treats and free drinks at a great value for money price.

INCLUDED:

- Free return Car Ferry - worth £40
- Free drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12 noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Bed, breakfast & 3 course evening meals
- Mulled wine & mince pie on arrival
- 'Christmas' dinner & visit from Santa
- 'New Year's Eve' dinner & countdown party
- Cabaret entertainment & disco every night
- En-suite chalet - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna

Grand Burstin Hotel Folkestone self-drive deals

3 or 4 nights half board

Quote GB-KOS

From £109pp

October 24 & 31, 2011
4 nights half board - £129pp

Twixmas* - Dec 27 to 30, 2011
3 nights half board - £109pp

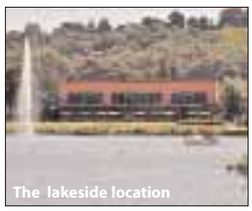
The Grand Burstin Hotel is located by the seaside overlooking Folkestone Harbour. This superb hotel is one of the UK's top entertainment hotels where you can relax in the leisure club or have a special dinner at the Premier Restaurant or even take a day trip to France (supplement payable locally). There are Cabaret shows each evening providing top notch entertainment, fantastic for all ages. Enjoy the 12 metre indoor heated pool, sauna, solarium and fully equipped gymnasium

INCLUDED:

- En-suite bedroom
- Dinners & breakfasts
- Entertainment

*Twixmas break includes 99p bar for 1 hour nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

Picturesque Marlow


The lakeside location

Thames Valley & Marlow Christmas

4-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Marlow, Buckinghamshire

Self drive, 4 nights half board-plus

Quote XP12-KOS

£319pp

Friday, 23 to 27 Dec, 2011

The Crowne Plaza Marlow is a contemporary and luxurious 4 star hotel on the outskirts of the beautiful Buckinghamshire country town of Marlow. This hotel is a low-rise contemporary building in a stunning lakeside location near the River Thames. The hotel has a fully-equipped health club with indoor pool which is free to residents. The spacious bedrooms all have Satellite TV, tea/coffee-making and en-suite bathrrom with bath & separate shower.

INCLUDED:

- Welcome mince pies and tea/coffee or mulled wine on arrival
- 4 nights accommodation sharing a twin or double room
- Four 3-course dinners
- 4 full-English breakfasts
- One 3-course festive Christmas lunch
- Nightly entertainment including a disco one night

The hotel pool

Pontin's Camber Sands self drive deals

3 or 4 nights half board

Quote PON-KOS

From £69pp

October 17 & 31, 2011
4 nights - £99pp

December 2, 9 & 16, 2011
3 nights - £69pp

December 5, 12 & 19, 2011
4 nights - £99pp

Christmas - Dec 23 to 27, 2011
4 nights - £159pp

Twixmas - Dec 27 to 30, 2011
3 nights £69pp

Pontin's Camber Sands holiday park offers the unique combination of miles of unspoilt sand dunes with loads to do in the day as well as the evening. Pontin's at Camber Sands is a fun place to be. Non stop fun for all the family with up to 70 free activities from, crazy golf to karaoke and talent competitions. At the end of the day Lunars bar is buzzing with live music and acts perfect for adults and older teens. Away from the holiday park the beautiful old Port Town of Rye is worth exploring, and of course the iconic White Cliffs – Camber Sands holiday park is the ideal get-away

INCLUDED:

- En-suite chalet
- Dinners & breakfasts (Christmas break also includes Christmas lunch)
- Entertainment

Enjoy a gentle stroll through Darling Buds of May country

SEE PAGE 47

PARTY TIME

Celebrate the season in style at a top venue

SEE PAGES 51-53

Kent Weekend

Family affair

New musical celebrates legendary Judy Garland and daughter Liza Minnelli

SEE PAGE 39

PLUS: Why are we wasting food at a time when we need it most? - **talking point p40** Shedding light on our unknown wartime heroes - **kent remembered p41** Proceed with excitement when you encounter Kia's new offerings - **driving p65**

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(T&C's below)

GENUINE honest, curvy lady modern, smart, friendly, seeking genuine gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376275**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male in the Canterbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easy-going, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097**

TANYA 35, Canterbury, brown hair/eyes, no ties, likes nights in/out, cuddles, TLC, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387220**

SUE 54, tactile, loving, fun, seeks genuine, loving guy to share good times. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373321**

VALERIE fun loving, late 60's, widow, slim, blonde, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, looking for similar male for relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373205**

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. Sittingbourne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. ACA. can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist, well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional man, 60ish for simple joys. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375741**

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hangups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369297**

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

FOLKESTONE lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, medium build, likes walks, good food, seeks caring, affectionate male, large build to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371399**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. Eltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

KATHY attractive single mum 25, slim, dark hair/eyes, fed up with being alone, looking older male for mutual TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372661**

EM attractive lady, mild mannered, nice nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659**

SUSAN 38, affectionate outgoing medium built brunette, seeking tall male with GSOH for cosy evenings in with a good wine. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374135**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. Sittingbourne. **Tel No: 0906 5157112 Box No: 374745**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

CAROL slim, blue eyed attractive lady looking for fun friendship maybe more with open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374675**

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for romantic meals and fun drives out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673**

LINDA slim green eyed brunette WLTM independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for easygoing relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133**

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

LORNA 66, loving, 5ft 4ins, seeks similar gent, 60-70. Hythe. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387162**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

AFRICAN female, likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**

ATTRACTIVE petite oriental female with no ties WLTM nice respectable man for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371577**

CONFIDENT and cultured lady, young 39, very attractive, slim and fit seeks mature male, 45-65yrs for wining, dining and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371575**

36YR old professional, blue eyes, blonde, smiley, OHAC WLTM special guy for nights in with lots of cuddles and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371549**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

CAROLINE size 16, seeks kind, honest, loving gent, 45 plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371099**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

ANITA 58, auburn hair, green eyes, 5ft 3ins, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374009**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181**

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089**

SHEILA caring 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373555**

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curvy brunette, witty and fun, seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373007**

HI I am Marie, a pretty middle aged lonely divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003**

PATRICIA 62, blonde, green eyes, 5ft 3ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372485**

CHARLOTTE 30, sweet French female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372687**

BEAUTIFUL nurse slim size 10, brunette, just looking for a bit of fun and good times with understanding nice younger man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372685**

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501**

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415**

FUN female 35yrs looking to let her hair down seeks easygoing N/S guy for a relationship, 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368001**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

BEAUTIFUL size 10 figured female, brown hair, big brown eyes 41yrs looking for relaxed relationship with man, 20-38yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370091**

ATTRACTIVE slim professional 35yrs seeking similar lonely professional for drinks/meals out and mutual friendship out of hours. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370089**

ELIZABETH loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603**

WANTED. Nice sincere man, 45-55 looking for LTR with kind, sincere female, dark hair, 5ft 6ins, likes wining/dining, pubs. Welling. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369417**

SHY brunette 22, perfect size 10, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, own car, seeks male to cosy up with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369193**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

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(T&C's below)

RONALD retired, 5ft 9ins, fit, active, seeks lady, 60-70 for friendship, maybe LTR. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376357**

ANDY 45 likes bowling, rugby, nights in/out, dvds, wine, looking for female, 40-45 for friendship and LTR. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376309**

COLIN widower mid 70's, 6ft 2ins, slim, grey hair, likes walks, music, cinema, seeks female, 62-69 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376229**

MICK 56, N/S, likes walks, 5ft 9ins, medium build, seeks female 50-65 for friendship, possible LTR. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376001**

ROY 62, 5ft 6ins, smoker, seeks similar lady for meals out, love and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387768**

GRAHAM 42, average build, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375969**

JACK late 60's, seeks female any age for no strings friendly chatting and cuddling relationship. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375955**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, 46, likes theatre, holidays, beach walks, cooking, restaurants, gardening, seeks female, 38-50 for LTR. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375661**

JOHN 42, easygoing, likes cooking, countryside, sports, seeks similar female, 30-45 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375553**

COLIN seeks mature female for friendship and adult fun. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375545**

IAN tall, slim 55, likes outdoors, seeks similar lady for possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387708**

ALAN 49, 5ft 9ins, good looking, likes holidays, cinema, restaurants, seeks attractive, slim female with GSOH for fun and possible romance. Bexley Heath. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375539**

DEAN 40, 6ft 3ins, medium build, seeks honest female for fun and friendship together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387696**

IAN widower, mid 60's, Herne Bay, genuine, seeks genuine lady to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375437**

MALE 43, tall, dark, GSOH, generous, seeks female, 30-43. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387686**

IAN 58, 5ft 7ins, slim, seeking female, 37-48 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375099**

MUHAMMAD tall, medium build, middle aged man, seeking female friend for company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375049**

MARTIN 42, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, keep fit, OHAC, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375001**

TOM easygoing, well dressed, solvent, kind, seeks nice lady for company, hopefully more. Bromley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375921**

JAMES professional, seeking female for fun times. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375913**

HARRY 47, 5ft 10ins, medium build, black/grey hair, likes walks, swimming, chatting, seeks honest, caring female, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387740**

IRVING 71, N/S, keeps fit, seeks N/S, slim, attractive lady for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375863**

MARK 36, seeks caring, understanding female for friendship and more. Canterbury. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375815**

DAVID seeks female, 45-57, slim-medium build, adventurous for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387730**

MARK handsome, athletic, understanding, 45, seeks discreet female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387718**

DAVE 44, tall, slim, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks female for fun and dates. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374303**

JONNY young 55, handsome, blue eyes, white hair, seeks attractive, broadminded lady for fun and frolics. Gatwick area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374211**

DANIEL 60, fun loving, seeks discreet similar female for fun times. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387384**

Gay Seeking

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THE INTERVIEW

Emma Dears

Legends with a real X Factor

Ed Hill meets the woman behind the new stage show Judy And Liza

WHEN it comes to showbusiness legends, they don't come much bigger than Judy Garland and Liza Minelli.

The mother-and-daughter duo have sung and danced their way into the affections of numerous fans.

Now a new show coming to Folkestone uses those songs to give an insight into their lives.

Emma Dears, who has produced and written Judy And Liza, said: "It's based on a performance they did together at the London Palladium in 1964. Liza was just 19 years old."

Dears, who also plays Liza in the show, says many of their songs have an uncanny connection with events in their lives.

She said: "It's a biographical musical but with a concert feel. People talk about The X Factor, but these two women really had it. The fact that it is a mother and daughter who ooze it is a unique situation, although it has probably been to the detriment of both their lives."

Garland was a product of the early Hollywood system. Her natural talent was recognised when she was a youngster and she appeared in many iconic roles. However, fame came at a price as film bosses gave her amphetamines and barbiturates to keep up with the hectic pace of filming. Her dependency on the drugs plagued her for the rest of her life.

Dears said: "When you grow up like Judy Garland, it is very difficult to know what normal is. Judy and Liza absolutely loved each other, but in a way the roles of mother and daughter were reversed. Liza had to be the parent but also spent half her time living with her father Vincent Minelli after her parents' divorce. There were certainly times of tension."

Dears, who has had a successful stage musical career herself in shows like Miss Saigon and Jesus Christ Superstar, decided to do the show after audience members kept saying how similar she was to Liza Minnelli.

She said: "Americans especially would come up to me at the stage door and say you are so like her. I was always fighting against it, but then after a while I thought 'Why?'. I got offered a concert playing her in Monte Carlo and that began the idea for the show in my head. I had always been interested in Judy Garland, so I started to think how the mother-and-daughter idea could work. It has not really been used as a theme that much, which is strange considering it is such as great story."

Dears is joined on stage by Lucy Williamson as Judy.

She said: "She was playing in Stephen Sondheim's show Company. All the time I watched her, I just thought 'She is Judy'. Meeting her was the final push for getting the show together."

The Liverpool-born actress identifies with both women, having been on the professional stage from an early age herself. At nine she was the star in a touring production of Annie.

Dears said: "When I was growing up, I used to watch a lot of Judy's films. I didn't really know who she was, I just thought that this is what I want to do, so she was a big influence on me. As I grew up, I began to love Liza's style more and more from films like Cabaret."

The musical has taken a long time to get off the ground, but Dears wanted to wait until she felt the time was right.

She said: "It has taken about 10 years. I feel that I now have the life experience and am of the right age to get the piece to the place it should be. I wanted to be at a time when I personally felt I could do it."

Music fans will not be disappointed by the number of well-known songs in the show.

"There are classic songs one after another," said Dears. "But also a few that people don't know so well. It touches on the best of both their careers. The parallels with both their lives are extraordinary."

Stepping up to be more than just a performer has been a steep learning curve for the actress.

She said: "I have learnt a lot in the process. The producing side has been new to me, but I would like to do it again and explore other people's work."

And as for the real life Liza, Dears says she has lost none of her appeal.

She said: "I think Liza, despite her ups and downs, has held on to some grasp of reality. She does push away the attention more, whereas Judy needed it all the time.

"I went to see her a few months ago at the Albert Hall. She is older and the voice is weaker, but the star quality is still there. I get the impression she is a nice woman. She might be a bit odd, but you can tell that her heart is in the right place. People just adore her."

■ **Judy And Liza is at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on Friday, October 7. Visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk for details.**

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TALKING **POINT**

Agriculture

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT: UK growers have the ability to provide far more produce than they do at present, but the demand has to be there first

With the threat of climate change and an ever-increasing global population, it has never been more important for the UK to produce more of the food it consumes. But as STEVE KNIGHT reports, the huge problem of wasted produce needs to be overcome first...

FOOD SECURITY IS NO WASTE OF TIME

ACCORDING to new guidance issued by the Government, supermarkets should scrap sell-by dates to reduce food waste and save shoppers money.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) says five million tonnes of edible food is discarded by UK households annually – the equivalent of £680 for a household with children – with confusion over food labelling responsible for an estimated £750 million of the £12 billion edible food wasted each year.

"We want to end the food labelling confusion and make it clear once and for all when food is good and safe to eat," said Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman.

"There are products that have several dates on them; use by, best before. Sometimes it says 'display until', which is not relevant at all by the time it's sitting in your fridge.

"So I can understand when people – particularly young people starting out with shopping – look at these dates and say 'I'm not sure about this; better throw it away'."

While some shoppers may not give a second thought about discarding perfectly good food, their actions are only making things worse as far as UK food security is concerned.

Every day we bin 4.4 million apples, 5.1 million potatoes, 2.8 million tomatoes and 1.6 million bananas, but it is becoming more difficult and more expensive to get hold of such foods in the first place. And unless shoppers, supermarkets and British food producers pull together to increase food security, the problem could get a lot worse.

Dr Chris Atkinson, head of science at East Malling Research, explained why the UK needs to rely less on foreign imports and start to eat more of the food it produces.

He said: "One of the problems is that climate change is likely to affect parts of the world where we source a lot of our fruit and veg from, like southern Mediterranean countries, much more intensely than it will south-east England. It's predicted that these countries will start to run out of water, meaning food supplies will dry up and prices will become more expensive.

"We are particularly interested in fruit at East Malling Research because it's a vital part of diet, but people don't eat enough of it. The UK is very low in European league tables in terms of dietary consumption of fruit, and we only produce 10 per cent of what we consume.

"We have the potential to grow more in the UK, irrespective of climate change, but if people don't eat it then growers do not get the money they need and production goes down. That's why it has to be high-quality and has to be better marketed and promoted by retailers and other organisations."

Dr Atkinson added that shoppers needed to be better educated about food labelling to ensure they were not wasting products needlessly, and to be less fussy about what their fruits look like.

"People have to realise there's nothing wrong with eating slightly smaller apples or funny-shaped pears if the enjoyment of tasting them is still there," he said. "Our growers shouldn't have to miss out on money just because people think they shouldn't be eating that sort of thing."

A recent report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation reported record food price hikes of 4.2 per cent. When combined with petrol price rises, a global population increase to about nine billion, and the reduction of 25 per cent of global productive land due to climate change, UK consumers are likely to face increasing pressures.

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys is among those who believe the issue of food security should be viewed as a strategic challenge to the UK's future economy and stability.

> **There's nothing wrong with eating slightly smaller apples or funny-shaped pears if the enjoyment of tasting them is still there. Our growers shouldn't have to miss out.**
>
> DR CHRIS ATKINSON

She said: "We import about 50 per cent of the food we eat, which is probably the highest in the developed world. That makes us quite vulnerable to any shocks, and I'm sure nobody wants to pay £10 for a loaf of bread.

"We are also having to contend with changing diets in developing countries. For instance, most of the sugar grown in African nations is exported to Europe but because their people are starting to eat more of their own food, prices are rising.

"Reducing food waste is also central to the issue of food security. With a growing world population, climatic changes and a reduction in agricultural land placing added pressure on the world's food supply, getting the most from the food available has never been so important.

"Cutting waste by 25 per cent is as effective as increasing production by 50 per cent.

"I hope constituents across Kent will join me in waving goodbye to the 'sell-by' date and hope they will think twice before throwing away food. The difference will be felt in all of our pockets."

Kent's role as the Garden of England will continue to be of vital importance as the UK food industry moves toward a more self-sufficient future.

In addition to the countless orchards and farms spread out across the county, Kent is also home to the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale Farm, near Faversham; its own specialist land-based learning college at Hadlow, near Tonbridge; and other specialist agricultural centres like Thanet Earth, which grows cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers in high-tech greenhouses.

East Malling Research is dedicated to finding better ways of both growing and storing food, and Dr Atkinson said it was no coincidence the organisation was based in Kent.

"Back in 1915 when EMR was first established, it was at the behest of Kentish growers who saw a need for a fruit research institute in the Garden of England," he said.

"Food technology has advanced since, but Kent really was at the heart of fruit production back then and was the only place you could grow cherries in the whole of the UK.

"But we've got to start growing food in a more efficient way, otherwise we will need more land and we don't want to take it away from recreation or damage the countryside. We need to intensify the practices we already have for the benefit of Kent and the rest of the UK."

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

BATTLEGROUND: The trenches of World War One were the scene of brutal and terrifying fighting

Sadly, we will see their like again says author

By Mathew Beech
mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

A NEW book brings to life the stories of Kent's little-known war heroes who were awarded the highest honour for bravery from their country, the Victoria Cross (VC).

In his book, Kent VCs, author Roy Ingleton looks back at the exploits of 50 valiant war heroes, from the Crimean War (1854- 56), through the conflicts of the late 19th century, and the two world wars.

Mr Ingleton said: "The reader will find details of the circumstances that led to VCs being awarded to men who have a connection to Kent.

"They are all men of whom the county of Kent may be justly proud."

The first person to recieve a VC was Charles Lucas for his actions in the Crimean War.

He was born on February 19, 1834, in County Armagh, Ireland and by the time he was 19, he had risen to the rank of mate in the Royal Navy, and appointed to HMS Hecla.

Under Captain William Hall, HMS Hecla got involved in an exchange of fire with Russians on the island of Bomarsund on June 21, 1854.

During this exchange, a shell, with its fuse still burning, landed on the deck and Lucas threw the as yet un-exploded bomb overboard.

Mr Ingleton says: "As the shell hit the water it exploded, causing only minor damage and injury.

"Were it not for Lucas's prompt action, the consequences could have been disastrous."

HONOUR: The Victoria Cross

Lucas was immediately promoted to Lieutenant and, when the VC was instituted two years later, Admiral Hall recommended him.

Following the Crimean War, Lt Lucas was promoted to the rank of Captain before retiring, aged 39, to live with his sister and brother-in-law in Scotland.

A deathbed summons from Admiral William Hall, brought him to Mereworth, where he was asked to care for Admiral Hall's wife and marry his daughter Frances.

They married in 1879 and settled at Great Culverden, Tunbridge Wells, in 1906.

The house was demolished in 1927 and the site forms part of the grounds of the Kent and Sussex hospital.

Following Lucas's death in August 1914, he was buried at the St Lawrence churchyard, near Mereworth.

Among the 49 others named in the book, are Lieutenant Philip Neame, who is the only person to receive a VC and win an Olympic gold medal.

Lt Neame, a descendent of the famous brewing family, was born Preston near Faversham in December 1888, and served World War One.

He received the VC for holding a trench against German attacks for 45 minutes by throwing home-made bombs and helping retreating soldiers back to safety.

After the Great War, Lt Neame, won gold in the 1924 Olympics, in the running deer team shooting competition, becoming the only person to have both Olympic gold and VC medals.

Since the end of World War Two, no-one from Kent has been awarded a VC, but Mr Ingleton believes that, with the number of military conflicts still going on, that there will be new names to add to the list.

He said: "The accounts reveal that the Men of Kent and Kentish Men do not lack courage and, sadly, there appears to be no end to the sort of conflicts in which such valour may be demonstrated.

"We must be grateful that such men exist."

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THE White Horse Inn has a wealth of history. The original pub in Boughton, near Faversham, was on a pilgrims' route to Canterbury and is mentioned in Chaucers's Canterbury Tales.

The present building was used as a magistrates court and prison cells in the 19th century, and some of the Battle of Bossenden Wood rioters were tried and sentenced there.

Today it has a very different clientele and offers hotel rooms, food and refreshments in relaxed and informal surroundings.

The restaurant has 60 covers and is airy with a wealth of original beams; it has a roaring fire ready for those cooler evenings.

The current owners have landscaped the gardens, which feature a huge weeping willow that was planted from an older tree which came down in the storms of 1989.

Food on offer is homemade and uses local produce whenever possible.

The menu features classic dishes such as steamed steak-and-onion suet pudding or slow-roast shoulder of pork, and there are vegetarian and children's options, too.

Guests can stay in one of the 13 beautifully-appointed en-suite rooms. The pub also hosts music and clairvoyant nights.

■ **White Horse Inn**
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DESSERT: Kentish cherry crumble

SURIN RESTAURANT: Telephone 01843 592001
STARTER: Thai dumplings served with dark homemade sauce and finely-chopped fried-garlic garnish
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DESSERT: As a final dish for your perfect evening at Surin, the banana cheesecake is recommended, served with cream and a drizzle of golden syrup

IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES: The Tiger Moth pub in Chatham has something to entertain its customers every night of the week, be it watching sport on 3D TV, music, dancing, food or poker

Be drawn to Tiger Moth's friendly atmosphere any day of the week

THERE is entertainment available every night at the Tiger Moth in Chatham.

This large family pub has recently had an extensive refurbishment and the management say they are very proud of the results.

Events staged at the Tiger Moth include quiz nights and music and curry nights. Monday evening is poker night, at which beginners are always welcome. The Moth also has a television around every corner, with six screens installed specially for big sporting events. You can even watch the action outside and in 3D with the glasses provided for customers.

On the food front, visitors can expect the usual pub favourites like fish and chips, rump steak and Sunday roasts. There are also lighter snacks like sandwiches and baguettes.

Vegetarian customers are well catered for, with options such as vegetable jalfrezi, vegetable burritos, spicy beanburger and cheese-and-potato pie.

Landlord Chris Hall, who has been at the pub for almost four years, said: "We have a range of food offers and entertainment and show all of the important sports events. There is always a good atmosphere here and the team are very friendly and welcoming.

"On Friday nights we like to have a bit of a party, with music and a bit of dancing. Saturday night we have live music from different acts each week. On the first Sunday of every month we have a music quiz."

The Tiger Moth is open Monday-Saturday 9am-11pm and Sunday 9am-10.30pm. Breakfast is served every day from 9am-noon; full menu from noon-9.30pm or 9pm on Sundays. The pub has a large car park.

■ **Tiger Moth, Highview Drive, Chatham ME5 9UJ**
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Varied delights on offer at village store

THERE is a wealth of fine foods available at Mama Feelgoods near Canterbury.

At this fine food, delicatessen and coffee store in the village of Bekesbourne, Kentish produce from artisan makers sits alongside shopping-basket staples, making shopping for dinner a real treat.

Mama Feelgoods has been open for five years and is a real chance for food-lovers to get a bit of retail therapy.

It stocks everything you need for supper, from local free-range meat, fruit and vegetables, and fantastic Kentish wines, to freshly-baked bread, pastas, Mediterranean goods and great-tasting olives.

There is a large cheese counter where the friendly staff are always happy to advise and give samples of the many cheeses on offer.

For a treat, there is an old-fashioned

sweetshop in store where you buy loose sweets in pink-and-white candy-stripe bags; there are liquorice comforts, rhubarb-and-custards and sweet peanuts among many others. There is also a cake-craft store that stocks everything you need for cake-making, whether you are making a wedding cake or just a batch of cupcakes. You can buy iced decorations and sprinkles, fancy cupcake wrappers and cases, books and equipment, alongside a funky range of kitchenware and gifts.

The café menu reflects the use of fresh local produce and many menu ingredients served in the café are available to buy in the fine-food store.

Mama Feelgoods is open seven days a week with free parking, Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday and bank holidays 10am-4pm.

■ **Mama Feelgoods, Chalkpit Farm, Bekesbourne, Canterbury CT4 5EU**
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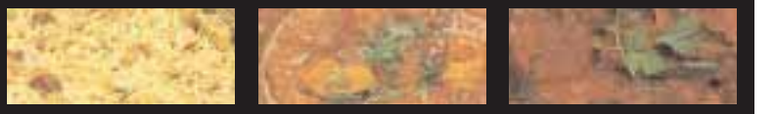

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Sunday, lovely Sunday: meal of the week

THERE is nothing better than sitting down to a relaxing and delicious meal on a Sunday. The hard-working week is done, the busy Saturday of dropping the kids here, there and everywhere is complete, and it is time to rest up and let someone else do the cooking.

It is a British tradition to enjoy a hearty family meal all together on a Sunday with the classic roast topping the bill of likely options.

But as our society changes, so do our food tastes and it is not unheard of for couples and families to venture to more exotic restaurants for their Sunday lunch.

Indian and Chinese food is now widely considered part of the staple British diet and offers an alternative option to the roast potatoes and Yorkshire puddings.

But don't worry, there is still a large calling for the roast dinner here in the county of Kent, considered the heartland of the Sunday lunch.

There is just a far greater freedom of choice!

The Garden of England has opened up the Sunday roast to new variations and culinary experimentation.

Gone are the days when lamb, beef or chicken dominated the menus in Kentish eateries. We are now so fortunate as to be offered roast goose with chilli carrots, roast duck with plum sauce... or even roast woodpigeon.

And let's not forget Kent's other attribute – our coastline, which offers up scores of sumptuous fish dishes to enjoy.

The selection of dishes that Kentish folk can proudly call 'locally sourced' provides extra satisfaction to our lunches. Here are six of the best venues.

The Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
Under new management, this traditional country pub offers great home-cooked food. Sunday lunch is served from midday to 8.30pm and offers one-, two- or three-course options. Main menu available.

On the menu...
Starters include homemade soup of the day; the roast has a selection of meats with all the trimmings. Desserts to finish off include Belgian waffle with ice cream and chocolate sauce.

How to book...
Church Hill, Hernehill, near Faversham, ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
www.theredlion.org

The Barn
Chestfield

Why here...
Long established, the Chestfield Barn serves traditional homemade, locally-sourced food. There is live music every Friday from 8.30pm, with Mac'n'Rog on Friday, September 30.

On the menu...
A choice of beef, lamb, pork belly or rotisserie chicken, served with stuffing, roots and shoots. Enjoy it with more live music from Billy Ebeling and Brendan Power on Sunday, September 25.

How to book...
101 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, Whitstable CT5 3LU
phone: 01227 793086
www.chestfieldbarn.com

Swingate Inn
Dover

Why here...
Situated on the A258, just three minutes from the Eastern Docks, the Swingate Inn, set in beautiful, peaceful countryside, is the perfect place for a relaxing break, an overnight stop or a great meal with your family or friends. The business is family-run, with 10 en-suite rooms. If you fancy a quick bite to fill you up, a meal with friends and family, or an indulgent Sunday carvery, then the Swingate is here to look after you.

On the menu...
Tuesday curry nights are £8.95 with a free drink; Thursday is live jazz night. There are lunchtime specials of one course (£5.95) and two courses (£8.95). Sunday carvery prices are £8.95, £11.50 or £14.50 (three courses).

How to book...
The Swingate Inn, Deal Road, Dover, Kent CT15 5DP
For reservations, phone 01304 204043 or email info@swingate.co.uk
website: www.swingate.co.uk

First and Last
Herne Common

Why here...
Situated between Herne Bay and Canterbury, this friendly pub offers a fabulous choice of food, real ales, wines, spirits and a great craic! The function room offers a great venue for any occasion.

On the menu...
The popular à la carte menu is available every evening, and changes weekly. A variety of food is available through lunchtime and there is a Sunday lunch menu offering roasts.

How to book...
The First and Last, Herne Common, Herne Bay CT6 7JU
phone: 01227 364465
thefirstandlastfreehouse.co.uk

Romney Spice
New Romney

Why here...
Owner Abdul Hussain opened the award-winning Romney Spice Indian restaurant more than six years ago. This successful eatery offers a wide selection of mouthwatering Indian and English dishes, with a special four-course banquet on Thursday evenings and all day Sunday for only £12.95. The highly-skilled chefs have created a variety of new dishes that originate in different Indian regions and are popular in the town.

On the menu...
Whether you want succulent chicken, tender spicy lamb or a vegetarian speciality, there is something for everyone. Customers who want an Indian meal at home can order a free-delivery take-away. Bangladeshi dishes available.

How to book...
High Street, New Romney
phone: 01797 361000
Open midday-2pm and 6pm-11.30pm Sun to Thu and to midnight Fri and Sat.

Wallett's Court
St Margaret's

Why here...
Celebrating three decades of classic British country living, Wallett's Court, in its 30th year of business, is now serving a classic Sunday roast in its Michelin-rated restaurant from just £14.95.

On the menu...
Start with a watercress soup or smoked loch salmon before a roast sirloin of 30-day matured beef with Yorkshires. Or try the local loin of Brogdale Farm pork and vegetables.

How to book...
Wallett's Court Country House Hotel, Westcliffe, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe CT15 6EW
phone: 01304 852 424

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WALK

Pluckley

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

The most haunted village in the UK is about more than spooks and spectres, as you will discover on this picturesque walk through Darling Buds Of May country

Enjoy a walk through the infamous village of Pluckley, known as the most haunted village in England, according to the Guinness Book Of Records.

Starting and finishing in a typical Kentish village, this 4.2-mile (6.7km) is an ideal afternoon's walk for this time of year, predominantly flat with some gentle slopes.

The village itself is not only famed for its ghostly goings-on but also for being the location of the popular Darling Buds Of May TV series filmed during the early 1990s.

Pluckley was also featured on an episode of BBC's Top Gear. Two of the presenters, James May and Richard Hammond, filmed a review of a new car on the market. The review required them to spend 24 hours in the car, sleeping in the 'Screaming Woods', an area of supposedly haunted forest outside the village.

Leaving Pluckley, you will join the Greensand Way long-distance walking route for a short time. Originally opened in 1989, this popular 108-mile (173 km) runs from Haslemere in Surrey through to Hamstreet in Kent.

Named after the sandstone ridge that crosses Hampshire, Surrey and Kent – one of a series of ridges running west to east across south-east England, the route takes in two Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty – the Surrey Hills and the Kent Downs – as well as numerous Sites Of Special Scientific Interest.

As you walk through fields and orchards you will pass sleepy dwellings and lone farm buildings. The route eventually guides you back to the village centre. If you have the time, take a walk around and soak up the atmosphere.

The area is a hot-spot for tourists, especially at spooky times of the year like Halloween. There are reported to be at least 13 resident ghosts in the area, including a highwayman, a phantom monk and a white lady.

After you have worked up a thirst walking, why not drop in to one of the local pubs or restaurants in the village? The Black Horse and The Dering Arms both offer warm hospitality and are favourites with walkers and the ghost-hunters who frequent the area.

The Darling Buds of May

2011 celebrates the 20th anniversary of The Darling Buds Of May, a series that captured the hearts of Britain like no other. The Darling Buds Of May idealises the life of a family living on a smallholding in rural Kent.

Set in the 1950s, the village of Pluckley and the surrounding countryside provided the main backdrop for the series. The Darling Buds Of May – Garden of England Trail leaflet is now available to view on the Explore Kent website.

It will transport you back to the 1950s as you walk in the footsteps of the Larkins and visit some of the modern award-winning food- and drink-producers, rural attractions and rolling countryside that keep Kent crowned as the Garden of England.

- **Location:** Pluckley, TN27 0QS
- **Distance:** 4.2 miles (6.7km); allow two hours
- **OS Explorer Map:** 162
- **Stiles:** Three
- **Gates:** 10
- **Steps:** One flight of four steps
- **Terrain:** Fields, orchards and tracks. Gentle slopes.
- **Step count:** Approx 8,375
- **Parking:** Limited on-road parking in Smarden Road and on Station Road near the school and church. Please note that the pub is for patrons only.
- **Refreshments and facilities:** There are pubs and shops in Pluckley.

KENTISH IDYLL: Walk starts from the pretty village of Pluckley and takes you onto the Greensand Way past sweeping fields, orchards and oast houses before guiding you back to the village centre

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent, or phone 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm).

KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Tigers in the spotlight
Conservation

Port Lympne, near Hythe
Sunday, September 25
www.aspinallfoundation.org
01303 264 647

VISITORS to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park this weekend can enjoy a great day out as World Tiger Day is celebrated.
Highlights of the day will include special feeds and enrichments, quizzes for the children and informative talks highlighting the importance of tiger conservation.
Port Lympne is home to a f amily of very rare Amur or Siberian tigers and two beautiful Bengal tigers, as well as lions, small cats, gorillas, lemurs, zebras, giraffe and many other exotic species.
You can hop on board a safari truck to experience the African plains and later enjoy a leisurely walk around the beautiful park, taking in the amazing animals and views across the countryside towards the English Channel.

Rock'n'roll
Hits tribute to Shadows man

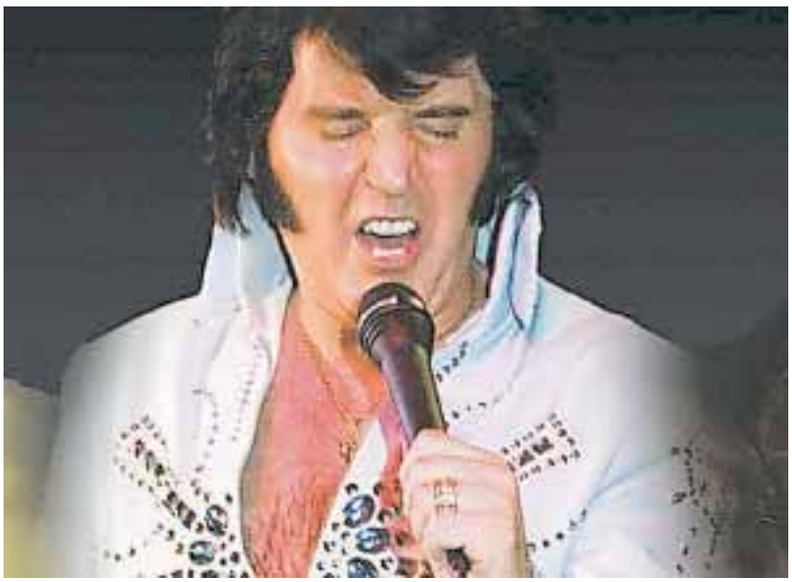
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Saturday, October 1
01622 758611

THE Hazlitt Theatre is staging the show Hit Parade Heroes at the beginning of next month.
The show is being performed in part as a tribute to the former Shadows bass guitarist Jet Harris, who died in March after a long battle with cancer.
Peter Stockton, promoter of the show, said: "Jet requested that the show must go on, and it does.
"Every future show will be dedicated to the memory of Jet and will continue to star John Leyton and Mike Berry, backed by The Flames, who will play Shadows hits."
Leyton appeared in movie classics like Von Ryan's Express and The Great Escape, while Berry, who will perform his tribute to Buddy Holly, was a regular on TV classic Are You Being Served?. Tickets £17.

Vision of Elvis
The champion come to town

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Friday, October 14, at 7.30pm
www.woodvillehalls.com
01474 337774

GET all shook up with Rob Kingsley as he re-creates the sound of The King, Elvis Presley.
Recognised as the outright 'Official European Champion' after winning the continent's largest Elvis competition, Kingsley will be performing at the Woodville Halls next month.
Kingsley is officially endorsed by Elvis Presley Enterprises for his charity work as well as by Mr Ed Bonja – Elvis Presley's official photographer and road manager who worked closely with the original rock'n'roller on more than 1,000 concerts between 1970 and 1977.
Featuring The Cadillacs Band with The Sweet Sensations, the jailhouse rocker offers Elvis enthusiasts a full evening of all the classic hits, right from the early years through to the sensational Vegas era, with the finale being the concert years.
Kingsley has been described as the total Elvis package – the look, the sound, the charisma, and together with his fantastic costumes this show leaves the audience in no doubt that they are witnessing a truly authentic Elvis show.
Tickets for the show cost £17.50 and can be bought at the box office at the Civic Centre, Gravesend, or alternatively by phoning 01474 33 77 74 or visiting www.woodvillehalls.com.



Scrump away to your desire
Taste of history

Kent Life, Maidstone
Offer until Friday, October 21
www.kentlife.org.uk
01622 763936

THE region's favourite home-grown visitor attraction, Kent Life, is offering over-60s the chance to bring a friend for free until Friday, October 21.
Special activities are on during this period, such as the popular Apple Weekend on October 8-9 and a 'scrumping' event on Tuesday, October 4.
Visitors are invited to indulge delicious lunch and homemade cakes at Dotty's tea rooms, enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and travel back in time by visiting the historic buildings.
These include the Sandling Farmhouse, which dates back to the 16th century, and Petts Farmhouse, which takes you back to Victorian times and is filled with memories from times past; there are many more historical buildings on site.
In addition, visitors can help pick some of the scrumptious fruit during the attraction's scrumping event, ready for the forthcoming Apple Weekend, when there will be regular demonstrations revealing the traditional process of making apple juice that visitors can both try and buy.

The Magnets
Instruments not required

Astor Theatre, Deal
Sunday, October 23
www.astortheatre.org
01304 370220

IT has been a busy year for London a cappella band The Magnets.
Famed for their live shows and independent attitude, the band deliberately have no management, the six members instead choosing to handle their own affairs.
They continue with a two-month tour of the UK, following sold-out shows at the Edinburgh Festival and a sold-out appearance with Blondie at Kew Gardens.
The Magnets are Nic Doodson, Michael Welton, Fraser, Andy Frost, Steve Trowell and Jim Fortune, a 'six-man sound machine' using their mouths alone.
Their talent is for extraordinary arrangements that radically restyle and subvert great songs by artists ranging from Elvis Costello to Adele, delivered through vocal stunts with no musical instruments.
Highlights include a sultry version of Lost In Music by Sister Sledge and New Order's Blue Monday.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

is to be held on:
Thursday 13th October 2011 at 7pm, at:
Tourist Information Centre, High Street, Rochester
Guest Speaker: David Hatcher, Shelterbox
Refreshments available from 6.30pm
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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Dickens World, our exciting indoor visitor complex based around the life, books and times of Charles Dickens. We take you on a fascinating journey to Dickens' World as you step back into authentically themed Dickensian England.

Annual Passes now available from just £10

DICKENS WORLD EVENTS

FIDELIO
Fidelio Opera
Ludwig Van Beethoven
Friday 14th October
Adult Only Ticket £25.00
with a 3-course supper £39.50

Time for Tea
A new 'Good Old Days' live show
Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.
Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.
*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches
Next Show Wednesday 26th October at 2pm

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Maritime Jazz Festival
Three days of Jazz between 22nd and 24th September
Adult Thurs Night - £11 • Adult Fri Night - £14
Adult Sat Night - £14 • Adult 3 day Festival Ticket - £27

Jongleurs Comedy Night
Friday 30th Sept & Friday 4th Nov
Doors open at 7.20pm • Comedians start 8.30pm
DJ til late, food available • Tickets from £10.80
Selling Out Fast, Book Now!

Roy Walker
Saturday 26th November
Tickets only £14.75
From the 1970s TV show, The Comedians and long time host of ITV's Catchphrase.
One of the UK's Top Comics.
In conjunction with the Vintage Corporation

Christmas Events

Christmas Launch
Arrival of Father Christmas
Saturday 12th November, Free event

Christmas Jongleurs Special
Fri 2nd Dec. Best comedians in the land!
Tickets from £18.90 - Will sell out, Book Now!

Christmas Parties
Dates throughout December, from £39.50

Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs
Dates throughout December, Adult £12.50 & Child £9.50

ODEON at Dickens World

Abduction (12A)
Crazy, Stupid, Love (12A)
Drive (18)
Friends with Benifits (15)
I Don't Know How She Does It (12A)
Jane Eyre (PG)
Jurassic Park(re) Digitial
Killer Elite (15)
Mr Poppers Penguins (PG)
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (12A) Digitial
The Change Up (15)
The Inbetweeners (15) Digitial
The Smurf's 2D (U)
The Smurf's 3D (U)
Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy (15)
Warrior (12A)

ODEON KIDS
Rio 2D (U)

SENIOR SCREEN
Captain America (12A)

NEWBIES
Crazy, Stupid, Love (12A)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

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Saturday 17th Dec
Monday 19th Dec
Wednesday 21st Dec

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- Three-course sumptuous meal
- Live show spectacular
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Whether you are small party of two or a group of two hundred, reserve your place now, on the coolest guest list in 2011.

For bookings and further information contact our central booking office at:
Margate Winter GardensTel: 01843 296111
admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk

All dates subject to availability
Guests should be 18 yrs or above

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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES

LEAS CLIFF HALL

Hall's wonderful setting is the ideal place to have your party

THE Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone not only provides excellent entertainment, it can also play host to private events, catering for functions small or large, including conferences, meetings, exhibitions, dinners and weddings.

Christmas parties also take place each year in the Channel Suite, the perfect venue for a magical festive get-together, with stunning views overlooking the English Channel.

These parties have been taking place during the last five years and each year has become more and more popular, with small and large groups being catered for.

There are on-site catering facilities, so all food is prepared and served in the building and brought to guests freshly cooked.

There are dates available throughout December, and your evening will include a welcome drink on arrival, a three-course seasonal meal and disco until 2am – all for the price of just £30 per person.

For more information or to book, email Peter at lchfunctions@leascliffhall.co.uk/ or phone him for a chat on 01303 228606.

LONDON BEACH COUNTRY HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

À la carte menu is sure to leave you spoilt for choice

THE London Beach Country Hotel & Golf Club is now taking bookings for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Throughout December the resort has a delicious midweek lunch menu, running Monday to Thursday, from 12.30pm-2.15pm, offering three courses for £15 or two for £9.95.

In the evenings the stunning restaurant has a delightful à la carte menu, which offers a variety of dishes that are bound to leave you spoilt for choice.

Friday and Saturday evenings in December are the popular Christmas party nights.

These are priced at £39.95 per person and include a three-course dinner, party decorations and a disco until 11.30pm.

Christmas Day is always very popular, at £60 per adult and £30 per child aged between 10 and 16.

This includes an exquisite five-course menu featuring something to suit everyone's palate.

Why not see New Year in at the Beach? Start the evening with a glass of Champagne, followed by a magnificent six-course meal, music from Martin Croones and fireworks at midnight to complete a wonderful evening.

If you would like any further information about Christmas menus, phone reception on 01580 766279 or alternatively email enquiries@londonbeach.com.

PORT LYMPNE MANSION AND GARDENS

A truly charming location

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park is inviting you to consider celebrating Christmas and New Year at its stunning and unique mansion and gardens.

With so much history and charm, it's the perfect venue to celebrate the festive period.

The park has a number of party options to suit you and your budget:

Private hire: If you are looking to organise something really special, the exclusive bespoke party offers you the opportunity to plan your Christmas party to the finest detail. Book before the end of September and receive 15 per cent off the venue hire.

Join in the fun: If you are planning for a smaller team but still want to soak up the atmosphere of this fantastic location, the shared parties promise to be a great night.

They are priced from just £30 per person (normally £40), if booked before the end of September.

New Year's Eve gala ball: Why not bring in the New Year with an unforgettable evening at the mansion and garden? Tickets for this great evening are just £65 per person.

To make your reservation, phone the Port Lympne hospitality and events department on 01303 234111 or email enquiries@aspinallfoundation.org for details.

THE WINTER GARDENS

Dance in a winter wonderland

THE Winter Gardens in Margate will be a winter wonderland this Christmas perfect for a family night out, a romantic meal or even an office party.

With the help of sophisticated sound and magical lighting effects, Queens Hall will be transformed into a classy winter setting.

Visitors will be greeted with iced cocktails to get the party started before a three-course chef's carvery is served at the beautifully-decorated tables.

Once guests have eaten, it is time for the live spectacular of music, theatre and costumes.

And obviously no Christmas party is complete without a disco.

After the spectacular live show has reached its dramatic finale, the resident DJ will entertain guests into the early hours.

All of this is included in the £28 ticket price and whether you are a party of two or 200, the Winter Gardens is looking to give you a Christmas party to remember.

So what are you waiting for? Reserve your place on the coolest list for 2011. And, while you're at it, why not take advantage of the theme and treat yourself to a new outfit to accompany the wonderland backdrop?

Party dates available in December include Saturday 17th, Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st.

For more information and to book your party, phone 01843 296 111 or email admin@thewintergardens.co.uk.

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IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!
Book your Christmas party today
Prices start from only £17.50 per person for lunch, or £22.50 for an evening meal.
Now taking bookings for tables on Christmas Day and Boxing Day
Christmas Day lunch is priced at £30 per adult in the Cumberland Suite, or £50 per adult in our fabulous restaurant, The Orangery.
On Boxing Day we are running our standard carvery ~ £10 for soup & carvery.

Tables are selling fast for both. Book now to avoid disappointment!
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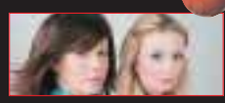
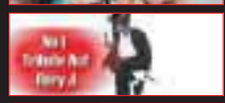
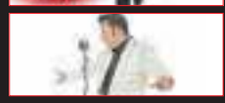


Sat 10 December MICHAEL JACKSON NIGHT
with Rory Jackson



Sat 17 December ELVIS NIGHT
with Scott Elvis



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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES

RAMADA JARVIS

Hotel's got a licence to party

WHETHER you're with colleagues, friends or family, there's plenty of fun and enjoyment to be had at the Ramada Jarvis, Maidstone.

Strut up the red carpet in your glamorous outfit with a licence to thrill and join a Bond-themed Christmas party where your mission, should you choose to accept, is to party!

Pull those crackers and dig into the fun festive table centres where you'll find a few items to help your themed party look – the best Bond character costume is optional.

A delicious Christmas party dinner is served with Bond-inspired dishes to get your jaws around.

The resident DJ gets the dance-floor jumping with sensational sounds to keep this Christmas party 2011 started.

The bar opens at 7pm and dinner will be served at 8pm, with disco until late. The £29.95 ticket includes a three-course meal, DJ and novelties.

If you fancy making a refreshing break of it, why not stay the night? You won't have to worry about driving or going out in the cold as the comfortable, welcoming rooms are just a short walk from the party.

Make your 2011 festive celebrations a year to remember at the Ramada Jarvis in Maidstone.

For more information, phone 0844 8159045 or email csales.maidstone@ramadajarvis.co.uk.

SMITHS COURT HOTEL

Enjoy festive food and guaranteed snow

THIS year, why not book your Christmas party at Smiths Court Hotel in Margate and benefit from great food, an excellent atmosphere and even a Yuletide overnight stay if required?

From the guaranteed snow and friendly staff to the carol-singing polar bear, the festive tables and the themed menu, the hotel offers a night that will live long in the memory.

Prices start from only £17.50 per person for lunch, or £22.50 for an evening meal.

On Friday and Saturday the evening includes a free disco, with prices at £29.95 per person.

Smiths Court is also taking bookings for

Christmas Day lunch and its popular Boxing Day carvery.

To find out more about Christmas at

Smiths Court, or to book a table, phone 01843 222310 or email info@smithscourt.co.uk, quoting KOSX9.

SPICE MASTER

Add a bit of kick to your festivities

THE Spice Master restaurant in Hersden, near Canterbury, offers a wonderfully-spicy Christmas venue with superb live music.

Priding itself on Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine of excellence, the eatery has a team of dedicated chefs preparing a distinctive Spice Master flavour, along with monthly theme nights and live music on weekdays.

This Christmas, why not try something a little more exotic than your turkey and cranberry sauce and

instead savour some classical Indian dishes that really will make your mouth water?

Curry enthusiasts can make an order online using the Spice Master web service which ensures that your order is not only prompt but 100 per cent correct every time.

The team also offers a popular all-day Sunday buffet that offers great value for the whole family.

Spice Master in Hersden, near Canterbury, is open everyday. For more information on how to book, phone 01227 711 774 or email info@spicemasterrestaurant.com.

WALLET'S COURT HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

Historic, charming setting

THERE are few places as special as Wallett's Court Hotel and Restaurant, especially in the cold winter months.

The beautiful, cosy 16th-century manor house provides the perfect setting for a Christmas party.

With fresh local food served up by head chef Ryan Tasker, the choice of Wallett's Court as a festive venue is certainly a right one.

This Yuletide season, the hotel is offering a fantastic three-course Christmas party menu for £30. With award-winning cuisine and a relaxed atmosphere, make this Christmas do a truly special one.

For more information, phone 01304 852 424 or visit www.wallettscourthotelspa.com.

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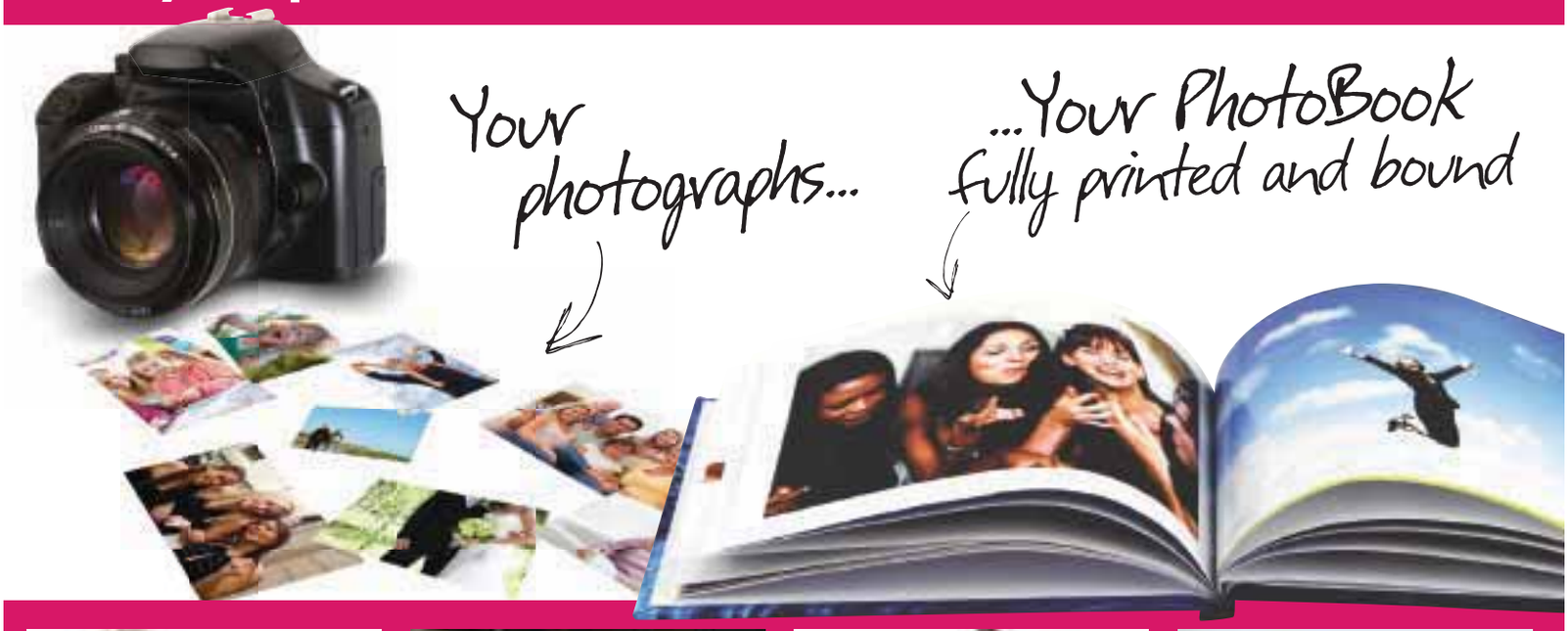

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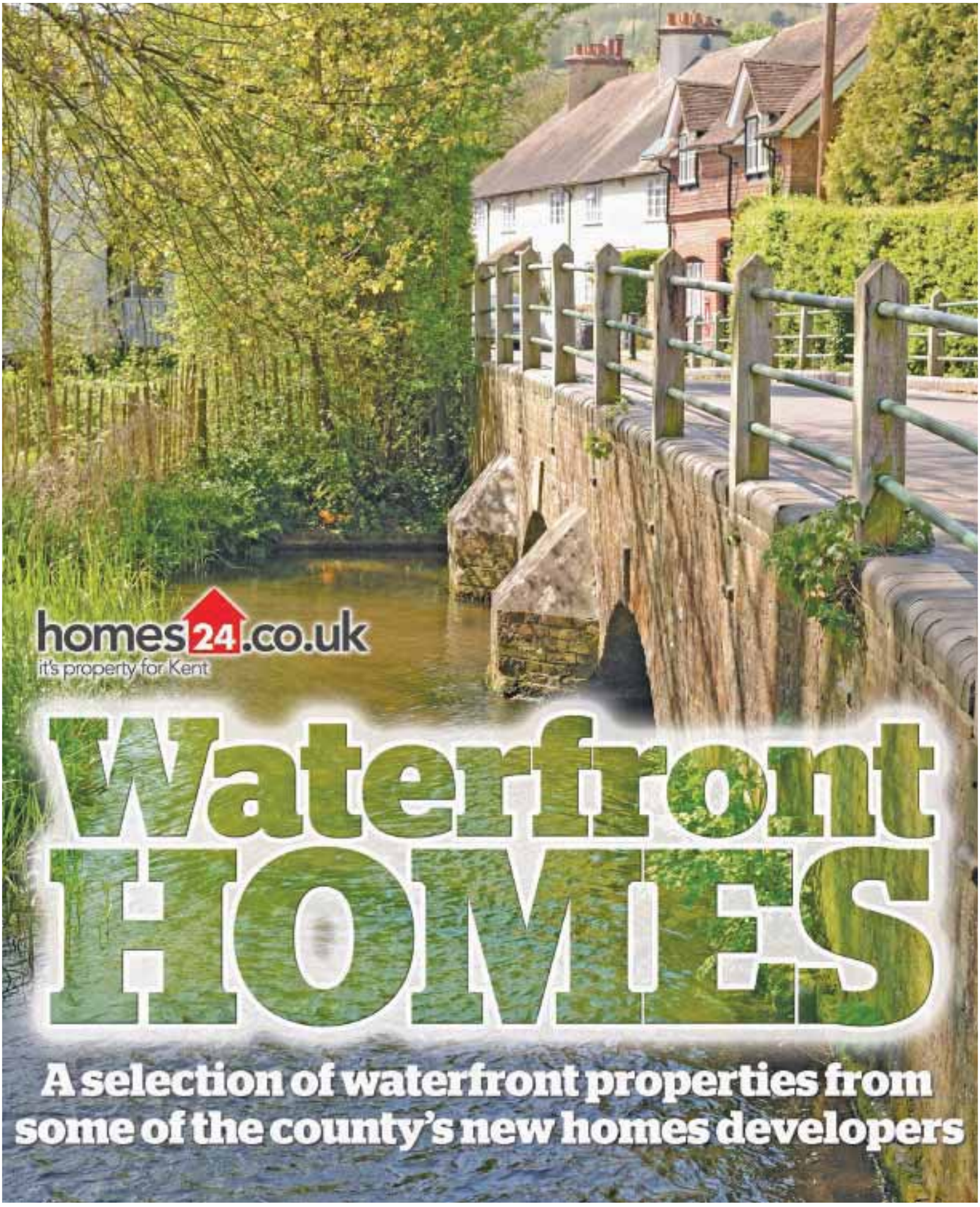
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Waterfront
HOMES
A selection of waterfront properties from some of the county's new homes developers

CONTEMPORARY RIVERSIDE LIVING

To wake every morning to panoramic river views across Kent may sound like a holiday, but for owners of one of the stylish detached homes at the Alps development in Rochester it could be any day of the week.

Situated high above the banks of the Medway this is a superb development of six houses offering the most spectacular views stretching across North East Kent. The houses are currently being offered for sale through Savills Sevenoaks from £935,000.

The work of local developers Cameo Homes, The Alps benefits from high quality and attention to detail.

Each of the architect-designed homes in the gated development has been built with thought and care to ensure that they maximise the potential of this fantastic location. Perfect for families, each house in the contemporary development has been built with modern materials and designed to take advantage of the breathtaking views from the first floor upwards. Finished to a high specification, the kitchens are complete with state of the art appliances, porcelain tiled floors and granite worktops. The interior has an unusual open plan design which gives the entire living area a light and spacious feel, added to by the large windows and balconies. Each property has a rooftop terrace with 360° views, perfect for relaxing on a summer evening. At the rear each of the properties has a landscaped garden and an unusual sunken courtyard garden.

Abbe Hall of Savills Sevenoaks comments "This is a striking development in a fantastic location. Buyers can enjoy the spectacular views across the River Medway, and they are perfectly located for good schools such as King's School in Rochester and the high speed rail service from Rochester station. With the additional benefit of good road links, this is the perfect home for anyone looking to take a break from city living. We have already had a good deal of interest from people who are charmed by not just the location but the homes themselves."

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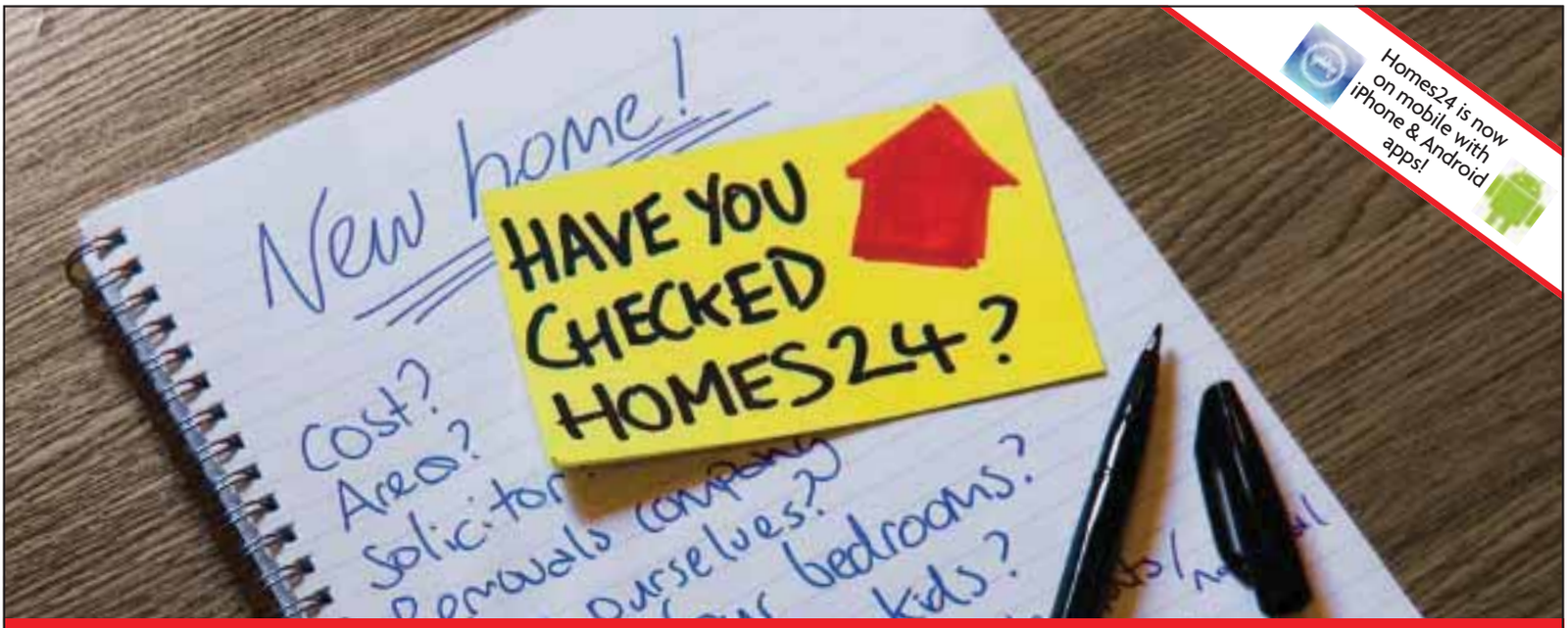

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ENJOY THE HIGH LIFE AT VICTORY PIER MEDWAY WATERFRONT

ONLY TOP FLOOR APARTMENTS REMAIN AT THE BOATHOUSE AT VICTORY PIER, A STUNNING WATERSIDE VILLAGE IN THE HEART OF MEDWAY, WITH PRICES STARTING FROM JUST £109,950

Now over 80% sold, premium developer Berkeley has just released a final selection of top floor apartments at The Boathouse at Victory Pier, a striking development that is transforming Medway Waterfront with prices starting from just £109,950.

Matthew Biddle of Berkeley, said:

"We've been overwhelmed with the response we've received at The Boathouse; sales have been fantastic with over 80% of apartments sold since the initial launch in June. Despite all the economic uncertainties, this demonstrates the confidence everyone has in the regeneration of Medway. These will be the last apartments available for sale until the next phase is launched in 2012."

"With prices from £109,950 - £179,950 and rental yields of six per cent, they make an excellent investment, as well as an ideal home for those trading down, those looking for a second home and first time buyers with low deposits, who can apply for government assistance under the Firstbuy Scheme."

Computer generated image

victorypier
medway waterfront

Victory Pier interior

Residents Gym

Wifi Lounge

Released earlier in the summer, The Boathouse is a striking eight-storey building, overlooking the newly restored historic pier and River Medway and comprises a superb choice of 124 suites, one and two bedroom apartments and penthouses.

Just 15 apartments remain, including suites from £109,950, one-bedroom apartments, from £129,950 and two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments, priced from £174,950. The Firstbuy Scheme, a shared equity government initiative to help first time buyers onto the property ladder, is available on a limited number of apartments. This will enable eligible first time buyers to access a loan (interest free for five years) to cover up to 20 per cent of the purchase price, as long as they can contribute a minimum cash deposit of just five per cent.

Enjoy the high life at Victory Pier

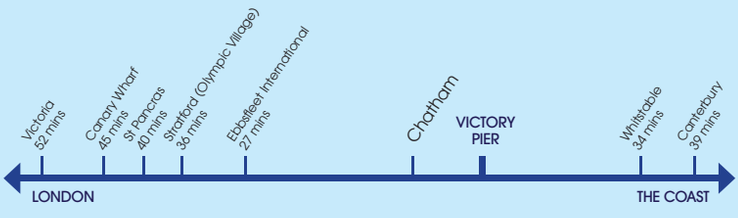
With this assistance, eligible first time buyers will be able to move into a superbly appointed apartment for less than £500 per month in mortgage repayments; a sum that is significantly lower than monthly rental payments.

The majority of the remaining apartments deliver far-reaching views and have either south or west facing balconies which extend the living space outside, and all benefit from private parking, use of a residents' gym and WiFi-enabled hotel-style lounge.

Carefully designed to maximise space and draw in natural light, each apartment features a high quality specification that includes timber effect flooring and fully fitted kitchens, bathrooms and wardrobes, all of which contribute to an overall sense of understated yet affordable luxury that is present throughout the development. The apartments also benefit from distinctive open plan living and kitchen-dining areas, which allow light from the large windows to stretch throughout the entire apartment.

Victory Pier is also adjacent to the LV21, a permanently moored floating art gallery which plays host to a lovely calendar of installations and events throughout the year. Riverside walkways will provide a relaxing route around the development and will include a mix of restaurants, cafés and bars, as well as a 120-bed hotel.

Residents at Victory Pier benefit from superb transport links, with train services to central London in 40 minutes, access to the M2/M25 in 10 minutes by car and 15 bus services that serve the Medway Waterfront area. Plus, with eight trains per day to Paris from nearby Ebbsfleet station, access to Europe is only ever two hours away.



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Making the oast of tradition

A traditional Kentish-style oast house is on offer for £850,000, marketed by developer Hillreed Homes. The 3,007 sq ft, five-bedroom home has just been completed at Oast Court Farm in Wateringbury Road, East Malling.

Using modern-day building techniques coupled with a traditional build style, it incorporates a 21st-century interior with a 19th-century edifice, with three substantial roundels.

Oast houses played an important role as they were originally designed to dry hops, the plants which became vital in the brewing of beer. It was due to the hops that the British drink bitter was created.

At one time in history Kent's hop fields were visited by thousands of people during August each year, keen to harvest the many acres of crops. For most, it was their only opportunity to enjoy the countryside.

Once picked, the hops needed to be dried on the day of harvest which explains the proliferation of oast houses in the main hop growing areas.

The oast houses were originally square, as they were easier to build, but in the middle of the 19th-century oast buildings became round as it was felt that this was a better shape for heat distribution. Most kilns have the cowl and weather vane in bright white, although there are some with wooden chimney-type vents.

ICONIC STYLE: Property incorporates a 21st-century interior with a 19th-century edifice

Hillreed Homes is continuing to build individual oast houses, but this is the largest and is located on a private development with a gated entrance in a semi-rural location of open countryside yet within a few minutes drive of shopping centres, roads and stations.

On entering the property you find yourself in a roundel with its original staircase curling up the wall to a first floor galleried bedroom with full-height glass wall.

There is a lounge with fireplace in another roundel and a well-equipped kitchen.

The three roundels lead to an inner hall and then a 16 ft plus family room together with separate study. On the first floor there are five bedrooms with tiled bathrooms with digital showers and whirlpool baths from Aqualisa and white Roca designed sanitaryware.

Market slow in face of economic uncertainty

THE South East housing market remained subdued during August as economic uncertainty and lack of mortgage finance impacted on the level of property sales, says the latest RICS UK Housing Market survey.

The number of sales per surveyor over the three months to August dipped slightly to an average of 15 (on a seasonally adjusted basis). Meanwhile, average stocks on surveyors' books fell back to an average of 46 (from 52).

Respondents were also asked for the reasons they felt sales levels continued to be subdued. The most commonly cited reason for this was economic uncertainty (80 per cent).

In addition, more than half of the region's surveyors (57 per cent) felt a lack of mortgage finance was impacting negatively on transactions. This seems to be borne out by the number of first-time buyers still struggling to join the property ladder.

Thirty-nine per cent of respondents added that fears over house-price falls were affecting transaction levels as buyers and sellers stayed away from the market while waiting for things to improve.

New-buyer enquiries remained flat as 1 per cent more chartered surveyors reported a decrease rather than an increase. Meanwhile, new instructions, which indicate supply levels to the market, moved from a net balance of -5 per cent to -12 per cent.

The sluggish market contributed to the downbeat pricing picture in August, with 25 per cent more surveyors reporting prices fell rather than rose (from 19 per cent in July).

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Rye, East Sussex
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Guide Price £335,000
3 bedroom semi-detached property with double garage to the side with development potential, subject to planning

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Detached 3 bedroom bungalow in need of refurbishment, with potential for redevelopment, subject to the usual consents

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Kia's intent to Proceed

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KIA wound up the Germans on home turf with some terrific models at the Frankfurt Motor Show, which closes this weekend.

Adding to Teutonic angst was the sight of former Audi design guru Peter Schreyer – the man behind the Audi TT and now Kia's style chief – introducing the Korean marque's breath-taking GT Concept car and basking in praise heaped upon the racy all-new Rio supermini.

The former, Kia's first ever rear-wheel drive vehicle features a V6 turbo and eight-speed automatic powertrain – all three features underlining the marque's now familiar confidence and ambition.

Schreyer said it would not take much to put the GT into production, if the firm decided to press the button, and added:

"The classic front-engined, rear-wheel drive layout of a performance saloon has distinct appeal not just for the domestic Korean audience, but also for the European and American markets."

In the meantime, we caught up with the latest incarnation of one of our favourites from the current Kia range, the sporty three-door version of the Ceed family hatch known, not surprisingly, as the Proceed.

It has proved to be a decent first effort to inject more style and pace into the Kia line-up, drawing upon European styling and chassis tastes and being built in an all-new factory in Slovakia.

The Proceed (from £13,295) is slightly longer and lower than its family-orientated Ceed sister, a fact enhanced visually by a high waist, longer side doors, a dramatic body line sweeping up to the rear wheel arch, plus a tailgate spoiler.

It retains the Ceed's spacious cabin and boot though, not surprisingly, it does feel a little more cramped in the rear thanks to those upswept rear windows – kids don't like it much.

KIA PROCEED4 DIESEL: £18,995

SLEEK NEW LOOK: The man behind the Kia brand's improved looks is Audi's former head of design, Peter Schreyer. Main pic: the new Proceed4. Above: the GT Concept Car unveiled in Frankfurt.

However, extra long and wide opening front doors and sliding front seats ease access, and there is decent headroom.

The cabin is well arranged and logical with USB/iPod connector as standard – now a given with Kia – but the touchy-feely quality of some plastics betray what is now an ageing car, by Kia standards at least, having been launched in 2008.

The semi-glossy cappings on the armrests let the side down most, but it's not a deal-breaker as everything works well and feels sturdy.

On the road it seems bulletproof too and, of course, is backed by the maker's unique 'buy and forget' seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

For a car intended to attract sportier drivers, the ride quality is excellent and signals a sensible trade-off on Kia's part; sure, it could be tighter in the handling department, but passengers might complain about the suspension needed to deliver that ultimate handling.

As it is, the generously equipped flagship Proceed4 we tested, delivered plenty of fun for a bargain £18,995. It will push its nose wider on bends if you attack them and the ride can then get fidgety too but, used sensibly, it's a fine all-rounder,

Power comes from the highest output version of the excellent 1.6-litre diesel engine that dominates a now more streamlined Proceed line-up.

This delivers 126bhp via a crisp six-speed gearbox that enables this version to accelerate smartly from low down the rev range, yet offer an average of more than 60mpg and CO2 emissions low enough to qualify the Proceed4 for road tax band C, meaning no payment in year one and just £30/year thereafter – putting it on a par with the ultra-green (£15,795) Ecodynamics version in the line-up.

Even under pressure, this 1.6 diesel is refined too – something to bear in mind if shopping for the more practical five-door Ceed.

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First GEAR

FROM THE FRANKFURT MOTOR SHOW 2011

Lando takes a Rambo stance

LAND Rover had already leaked shots of its next-generation Defender concept, but the UK all-road specialist surprised everyone with this butch spin-off. We wouldn't bet against something like this going into production, but there would be a concern if most ended up charging along city streets rather than taking to the high ground and the farm.

Jaguar name game begins

IS IT the new E-Type? Jaguar's design guru Ian Callum – the man credited with reviving the big cat's fortunes – says not. But comparisons between the newly unveiled C-X16 concept and the legendary 1960s sports car icon will continue even after a label is agreed for the newcomer, which should arrive in late 2012 with a convertible to follow later.

Little VW gets one Up! on rest

THERE were more examples of the Porsche-style New Beetle on the VW stand, but the German giant's forthcoming Up! baby car stole the show. It's everything the current Fox is not: stylish, clever and cheeky, yet just as practical and VW is alert to fun spin-offs to attract young buyers although the alfresco Buggy Up! concept might need renaming.

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POMPHREYS ALWAYS SOMETHING EXTRA

Market leader tops sales drive with sporty preview

FORD underlined its UK market supremacy with a storming September, following the launch of the latest registration plate change.

Already the best-selling brand this year, it topped its 2010 September performance, helped by double No1 status in both car and light commercial sectors, with the Fiesta supermini and Transit van respectively.

But if it was business as usual on the UK front, the blue oval brand was in sports mode for the huge Frankfurt Motor Show, which finishes this weekend.

It had already pre-empted the show with a sneak preview of the fabulous EVOS fastback concept; it has the typical concept car extravagence of gull-wing doors that never make it to real-world production, but the EVOS offers an insight into the design language that Ford insists it will use on future models.

Back in the here and now, though, Frankfurt showed Ford had exciting plans for its ST sporting sub-brand with previews of a production-ready Focus ST five-door hatch and, the big surprise, an ST Wagon (estate).

SURPRISE PACKAGE: Ford Focus ST Wagon, previewed at the Frankfurt Motor Show

The latter will be unique to the UK and Europe and looks like a shrewd move, as estate car sales ease towards parity with saloons and hatchbacks in the sporting and executive sectors of the market.

Buyers clearly want the extra load-lugging capacity, but they also desire style and the Focus ST Wagon has that.

The new STs also reprise the classic 'Y'-spoke alloys that became a trademark on the previous Focus ST.

Performance comes from a four-cylinder 250PS (247bhp) 2.0-litre Ford EcoBoost lightweight all-aluminium petrol engine that's more powerful yet greener than the 2.5-litre five-pot unit in the old car – it cuts CO_2 emissions and fuel consumption by more than 20 per cent.

The brand also unveiled a long overdue Fiesta ST as a halo car for its best-seller. Still touted as a concept, it surely can't be far from how the finished article might look.

It features a tuned 180PS (178bhp) 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost designed to give ST performance yet decent fuel economy and low CO_2 emissions.

STUNNING: Executive saloon Concept You looks to the future

Volvo XC90 revitalised as brand looks to future

VOLVO seems only too happy to remind us that its XC90 seven-seat premium SUV is now in its ninth year of production.

Why not, when it enjoyed its best-ever UK sales last year and the car revels in a classic status that makes it one of the UK's top three best-selling SUVs.

Nevertheless, the Swedish brand has announced autumn enhancements, with LED running lights in the lower bumper, redesigned silver metallic bumper bar, silver roof rails as standard, and redesigned rear tail lights.

The cabin has also been enhanced and there is a new luxury Executive trim level, featuring soft leather seats with ventilation and massage.

Like other Volvos it now gets Bluetooth music streaming too, and there is even an iPhone or Android smart phone link allowing the driver to relocate exactly where he/she parked the car.

Volvo used this month's Frankfurt Motor Show to herald the future with a stunning executive saloon, Concept You – it's how big Volvos might look and cosset occupants in years ahead.

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2007	57	Suzuki Swift 1.5 VVT-S GLX 5 Door Hatchback	Grey	26,000	£5,795
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2009	09	Suzuki Jimny 1.3 JLX Plus 3 Door Hatchback	Black	19,200	£9,495
2010	10	Hyundai i30 1.6 Comfort 5 Door Estate	Grey	9,193	£9,495
2008	08	Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.0 X-EC 5 Door Hatchback	Grey	42,000	£9,495
2011	11	Suzuki SX4 1.6 SZ4 5 Door Hatchback	Grey	4,000	£10,995
2011	11	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi Comfort 5 Door Hatchback	Grey	3,800	£11,995
2011	11	Hyundai ix20 1.4 CRDi Style 5 Door MPV	Grey	100	£13,995
2011	11	Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.4 SZ4 5 Door Estate	Black	3,500	£14,995
2010	10	Hyundai i800 2.5 CRDi Style 5 Door MPV	Black	12,000	£16,995
2010	60	Hyundai Santa FE 2.2 CRDi Style 5 Door Estate	Silver	9,000	£20,495
2010	60	Hyundai ix35 2.0 CRDi Premium 4WD 5 Door Estate	Black	12,000	£21,495
2010	10	Hyundai Santa FE 2.2 CRDi Premium 5 Door Estate	Blue	16,500	£22,495
2010	60	Hyundai ix35 2.0 CRDi Premium 5 Door Estate	Silver	6,500	£22,495

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†Models shown: Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2 at £6,995 OTR including a £1,200 customer saving. Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3 dr at £8,495 OTR including a £1,250 customer saving. Hyundai i30 Comfort 1.4 hatchback at £9,995 OTR including a £4,300 customer saving. Prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication and include VAT, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. 3 years' or 30,000 miles free servicing, whichever occurs sooner is available to private retail customers only on all Hyundai i20 models registered between 1st July and 30th September 2011. Servicing can be carried out by any Hyundai dealer in accordance with the Manufacturer's servicing schedule for the specific vehicle. All offers and savings are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st July and 30th September 2011, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are subject to availability, may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers with the exception of the Hyundai i20 3 years' free servicing offer. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. See www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5YearWarranty or ask your local dealer.
Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO2 Emissions 225 - 99 g/km.

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NEARLY NEW 2011/10 60 REG CARS

2010(60) **NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC PLUS 2 4X4 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4,** BLACK, 200 miles **£21,995**
2011(110) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles **£21,995**
2010(600) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** NIGHT SHADE, 2000 miles.. **£19,995**
2011(110) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SE ESTATE CAR ESTATE AUTO,** TECHNICAL GREY, 1600 miles **£16,995**
2010(600) **TOYOTA VERSO TR VALVEMATIC MPV AUTO,** SILVER, 5000 miles **£16,995**
2010(600) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles **£15,995**
2010(600) **VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO,** GREY, 5000 miles..... **£15,995**
2010(600) **MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1700 miles ... **£14,995**
2010(100) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 900 miles..... **£14,995**
2011(110) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SOVEREIGN SILVER, 1700 miles **£14,995**
2011(110) **VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 500 miles **£12,995**
2011(110) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1000 miles .. **£12,995**
2011(110) **PEUGEOT 308 HDI S 5DR TURBO HATCH AUTO,** THORIUM GREY, 1000 miles **£12,995**
2011(110) **HONDA JAZZ I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO,** URBAN TITANIUM, 300 miles.. **£12,995**
2011(110) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** STRATOS SILVER, 1900 miles.. **£12,995**
2010(600) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles **£11,995**
2011(110) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles **£11,995**
2011(600) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles..... **£11,495**
2011(600) **VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 650 miles..... **£10,995**
2010(600) **FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 3000 miles **£10,995**
2011(110) **RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER, 650 miles **£10,995**
2011(110) **RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RUBY RED, 1700 miles **£10,995**
2011(110) **MAZDA 2 2 TS2 ACTIVEMATIC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles .. **£10,995**
2011(110) **RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MERCURY GREY, 1000 miles..... **£10,995**
2011(110) **CITROEN C1 VTR PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ELECTRA BLUE, 300 miles.... **£9,995**
2010(600) **HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 400 miles **£9,995**
2010(600) **TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 900 miles..... **£9,495**

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

2009(590) **BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO,** BRONZE, 7000 miles..... **£19,995**
2010(100) **PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLACK, 3000 miles..... **£13,995**
2009(590) **RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO,** RUBY RED, 8000 miles .. **£11,995**
2008(080) **RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles **£9,995**
2008(080) **RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** GREY, 15000 miles **£9,995**
2008(080) **NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** EMOTION RED, 7000 miles **£8,995**
2008(080) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 4000 miles **£8,995**
2006(060) **MINI COOPER MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE,** PURPLE, 49000 miles **£8,495**
2008(080) **NISSAN MICRA VISIA CC MANUAL CONVERTIBLE,** BLACK, 15000 miles.. **£7,995**
2006(560) **VAUXHALL TIGRA 16V EASYTRONIC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLACK, 31000 miles **£5,995**
2005(550) **PEUGEOT 206 CC ALLURE 5SPEED MANUAL COUPE,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 48000 miles **£4,995**
2004(540) **MG TF 120 STEPSPEED SPORTS CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 51000 miles.. **£4,995**

NEW FIESTA

2011(11) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** STRATOS SILVER, 1900 miles **£12,995**
2010(60) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles **£11,995**
2009(58) **FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles **£8,995**

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2010(10) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SEA GREY, 4000 miles **£9,995**
2009(09) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SEA GREY, 8000 miles **£8,995**
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles .. **£8,495**
2008(58) **FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** STRATOS SILVER, 11000 miles... **£8,495**
2008(58) **FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles... **£8,495**
2008(58) **FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 100 SALOON SALOON AUTO,** CHILL SILVER, 17000 miles **£8,495**
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SEA GREY, 16000 miles **£7,995**
2006(56) **FORD FOCUS C-MAX GHIA MPV AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 21000 miles **£5,495**
2005(54) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 29000 miles **£4,995**

FOCUS ESTATES

2008(08) **FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ESTATE ESTATE AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles **£9,995**
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 5000 miles **£8,495**
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO,** RED, 11000 miles..... **£7,995**

RENAULT SCENIC

2009(59) **RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TD MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 6000 miles **£14,995**
2008(08) **RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 14000 miles **£7,495**
2008(08) **RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 21000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO,** TEMPEST, 15000 miles **£6,995**

RENAULT

2009(59) **RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO,** RUBY RED, 8000 miles .. **£11,995**
2010(59) **RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles **£11,995**
2011(11) **RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER, 650 miles **£10,995**
2011(11) **RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RUBY RED, 1700 miles **£10,995**
2011(11) **RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MERCURY GREY, 1000 miles..... **£10,995**
2008(08) **RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** GREY, 15000 miles **£9,995**
2008(08) **RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles **£9,995**
2008(08) **RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 MPV AUTO,** GREEN, 15000 miles **£7,995**
2008(08 **RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, COSMIC** GREY, 2000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 1500 miles .. **£6,995**
2008(57) **RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles **£6,495**
2006(06) **RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 29000 miles..... **£4,995**
2003(53) **RENAULT SCENIC FIDJI 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 38000 miles..... **£3,6955**

CHEVROLET

2009(09) **CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** POLY SILVER, 7000 miles..... **£6,995**
2009(59) **CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ORANGE, 500 miles..... **£5,995**
2009(59) **CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles **£5,995**
2009(58) **CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO,** BLACK, 9000 miles..... **£5,995**
2008(08) **CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SPORTS BLUE, 18000 miles .. **£5,495**
2008(08) **CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SPORTS BLUE, 10000 miles .. **£5,495**
2008(08) **CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 18000 miles **£4,995**
2006(56) **CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles **£3,995**

HYUNDAI

2011(11) **HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 100 miles **£10,995**
2010(10) **HYUNDAI I30 COMFORT CRDI 5DR TURBO HATCH AUTO,** SILVER, 8000 miles **£10,995**
2010(60) **HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 400 miles **£9,995**
2008(08) **HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles **£9,995**
2009(59) **HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 8000 miles..... **£6,995**
2008(58) **HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 10000 miles..... **£6,495**
2008(08) **HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 10000 miles..... **£5,995**
2008(08) **HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO,** WINE RED, 7000 miles **£5,995**
2008(08) **HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO,** WINE RED, 13000 miles **£5,995**
2008(08) **HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 9000 miles..... **£5,495**
2007(07) **HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SEASIDE BLUE, 19000 miles.... **£4,995**
2008(57) **HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE,** 27000 miles **£4,995**
2007(57) **HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** YELLOW, 14000 miles **£4,495**

KIA

2010(60) **KIA RIO DOMINO 5DR HATCH AUTO,** WHITE, 2000 miles..... **£7,995**
2008(08) **KIA RIO GS 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 13000 miles **£5,995**
2008(08) **KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 7000 miles **£5,9955**

DAIHATSU

2008(08) **DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 8000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 12000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles **£6,495**
2007(57) **DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles **£6,495**
2007(07) **DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 16000 miles **£5,495**

BMW

2009(59) **BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO,** BRONZE, 7000 miles..... **£19,995**
2008(58) **BMW 3 SERIES 318I SE SALOON AUTO, ARCTIC SILVER,** 14000 miles. **£14,995**

FIAT

2009(59) **FIAT PANDA ACTIVE ECO 5DR HATCH,** BLUE, 9000 miles..... **£4,995**

FUSION

2010(60) **FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 3000 miles **£10,995**
2010(10) **FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 1800 miles **£9,995**
2009(09) **FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 16000 miles **£7,495**
2008(08) **FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 13000 miles **£6,995**
2009(09) **FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 11000 miles... **£6,995**
2008(08) **FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles **£5,995**

CITROEN

2011(11) **CITROEN C1 VTR PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ELECTRA BLUE, 300 miles... **£9,995**
2008(58) **CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 10000 miles..... **£7,995**

MONDEO

2005(05) **FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER, 42000 miles **£4,495**

CORSA

2010(10) **VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 2000 miles **£8,995**
2009(59) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING , 10000 miles **£8,995**
2008(58) **VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles **£7,995**
2009(09) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH AUTO,** GOLD, 12000 miles **£7,495**
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** STAR SILVER, 12000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 17000 miles **£6,995**
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GOLD, 9000 miles.. **£6,995**
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** METRO BLUE, 8000 miles **£6,495**
2006(56) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles **£5,495**

MAZDA

2010(10) **MAZDA 5 5 TAKARA MPV AUTO,** SILVER, 5000 miles **£14,995**
2009(59) **MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO,** GALAXY GREY, 12000 miles..... **£12,995**
2008(08) **MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO,** GREY, 2600 miles..... **£10,995**
2011(11) **MAZDA 2 2 TS2 ACTIVEMATIC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles.. **£10,995**
2008(58) **MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 5000 miles..... **£8,995**
2008(08) **MAZDA 3 3 TS SALOON AUTO,** SPORTS BLUE, 11000 miles..... **£7,495**
2007(56) **MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles..... **£4,995**

SUZUKI

2009(59) **SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 5000 miles **£8,995**
2007(57) **SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 21000 miles..... **£7,495**
2009(59) **SUZUKI ALTO SZ4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 9000 miles..... **£6,995**
2006(06) **SUZUKI ALTO GL 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 19000 miles..... **£3,695**
2004(04) **SUZUKI ALTO GL 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER, 54000 miles..... **£2,995**

TOYOTA

2010(60) **TOYOTA VERSO TR VALVEMATIC MPV AUTO,** SILVER, 5000 miles..... **£16,995**
2008(08) **TOYOTA AVENSIS T4 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 6000 miles..... **£11,995**
2010(60) **TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles..... **£10,995**
2010(60) **TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 900 miles..... **£9,495**
2008(08) **TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER STEEL, 15000 miles **£7,995**
2010(10) **TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles **£7,995**
2008(08) **TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 12000 miles... **£7,495**
2005(05) **TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CYRSTAL SILVER, 7000 miles **£6,995**
2004(04) **TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 35000 miles .. **£5,495**

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NISSAN

2008(08) **NISSAN X-TRAIL AVENTURA EXPLORER DCI TD ESTATE AUTO 4x4,** GREY, 16000 miles **£16,995**

2010(10) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 7000 miles **£16,995**

2008(58) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles **£15,495**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles **£12,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 21000 miles **£11,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 14000 miles... **£11,995**

2011(11) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles **£11,995**

2011(60) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles **£11,495**

2010(10) **NISSAN MICRA N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE , 12000 miles.. **£9,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 4000 miles **£8,995**

2009(59) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 8000 miles..... **£8,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** EMOTION RED, 7000 miles **£8,995**

2009(09) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles..... **£8,495**

2009(58) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles .. **£7,995**

2009(09) **NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO,** GOLD, 8000 miles **£7,995**

2007(57) **NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 18000 miles..... **£6,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles..... **£6,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO,** EMOTION RED, 18000 miles..... **£6,995**

2005(55) **NISSAN PRIMERA SVE ESTATE AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles... **£6,995**

2007(57) **NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles **£6,495**

2007(57) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles **£6,495**

2004(54) **NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles..... **£4,995**

2005(55) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 44000 miles..... **£4,995**

2005(54) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles **£4,995**

2005(05) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles **£4,995**

2005(05) **NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 11000 miles..... **£4,995**

2006(06) **NISSAN NOTE SVE MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 54000 miles..... **£4,995**

2006(06) **NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO,** PACIFIC BLUE, 21000 miles..... **£4,995**

2005(05) **NISSAN PRIMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 43000 miles **£4,995**

2005(05) **NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles **£4,495**

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2010(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles **£8,995**

2009(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO,** TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles **£8,995**

2009(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles **£8,995**

2008(58) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** PANACOTTA, 15000 miles **£8,495**

2009(09) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles **£8,495**

2008(58) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 3000 miles.... **£7,995**

2009(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 3000 miles..... **£7,995**

2007(57) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** PEACOCK BLUE METALLIC, 20000 miles **£5,995**

2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 10000 miles **£5,995**

2007(57) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles **£5,495**

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010(10) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 900 miles..... **£14,995**

2011(11) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SOVEREIGN SILVER, 1700 miles **£14,995**

2010(10) **VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles **£10,995**

ASTRA ESTATES

2011(11) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SE ESTATE CAR ESTATE AUTO,** TECHNICAL GREY, 1600 miles **£16,995**

2010(10) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE ESTATE AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 3000 miles **£9,995**

2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO,** BLUE, 1000 miles..... **£6,495**

2006(56) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO,** PANACOTTA, 19000 miles **£5,995**

2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO,** STAR SILVER, 12000 miles **£5,995**

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2010(10) **PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ABYSS BLUE, 6000 miles..... **£9,995**

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2009(09) **PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ELECTRIC BLUE, 9000 miles.. **£6,995**

2008(08) **PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 3DR HATCH AUTO,** CITRUS YELLOW, 14000 miles **£5,995**

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2007(57) **MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO,** GREY, 19000 miles **£6,995**

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2008(57) **HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, W**HISTLER SILVER, 15000 miles..... **£16,995**

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2006(06) **HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4,** BLACK, 26000 miles..... **£9,995**

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2009(09) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles **£12,995**

2007(57) **MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO,** CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles **£12,995**

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2008(08) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles..... **£10,495**

2008(08) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** POLAR SILVER, 9000 miles..... **£10,495**

2003(53) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 ELEGANCE SWB 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 42000 miles..... **£4,995**

VOLKSWAGEN

2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles **£12,995**

2011(11) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1000 miles .. **£12,995**

2010(59) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO,** REFLEX SILVER, 3000 miles **£11,995**

2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 10000 miles **£11,995**

2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE GRAPHITE, 18000 miles **£11,495**

2009(09) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ANTHRACITE GREY, 5000 miles **£8,995**

2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 14000 miles **£7,995**

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2008(58) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO,** BLACK, 12000 miles..... **£7,995**

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2009(09) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles **£12,995**

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2006(56) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles **£5,495**

2009(59) **FIAT PANDA ACTIVE ECO 5DR HATCH,** BLUE, 9000 miles **£4,995**

2005(55) **PEUGEOT 206 CC ALLURE 5SPEED MANUAL COUPE,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 48000 miles **£4,995**

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2008(58) **SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 8000 miles..... **£7,995**

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2010(60) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** NIGHT SHADE, 2000 miles.. **£19,995**

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2008(58) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles **£15,995**

2008(58) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles **£15,495**

2009(09) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 10000 miles.... **£14,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles **£12,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 18000 miles **£12,495**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 21000 miles **£11,995**

2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 14000 miles... **£11,995**

MINI

2010(60) **MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1700 miles ... **£14,995**

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2011(60) **VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 650 miles..... **£10,995**

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2008(08) **FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** AMETHYST, 5000 miles **£7,995**

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2004(54) **NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles..... **£4,995**

2008(57) **HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 27000 miles..... **£4,995**

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2005(54) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 29000 miles **£4,995**

2005(05) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles **£4,995**

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2005(05) **NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 11000 miles..... **£4,995**

2008(08) **CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 18000 miles **£4,995**

2003(53) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 ELEGANCE SWB 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 42000 miles..... **£4,995**

2005(05) **NISSAN PRIMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 43000 miles **£4,995**

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2004(54) **MG TF 120 STEPSPEED SPORTS CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 51000 miles **£4,995**

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2007(07) **VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO,** METRO BLUE, 51000 miles.. **£4,695**

2007(57) **HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** YELLOW, 14000 miles **£4,495**

2005(05) **FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER, 42000 miles **£4,495**

2005(55) **VAUXHALL MERIVA ENJOY 16V MTA MPV AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles **£4,495**

2005(05) **NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.... **£4,495**

2006(56) **CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles **£3,995**

2003(53) **RENAULT SCENIC FIDJI 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 38000 miles **£3,695**

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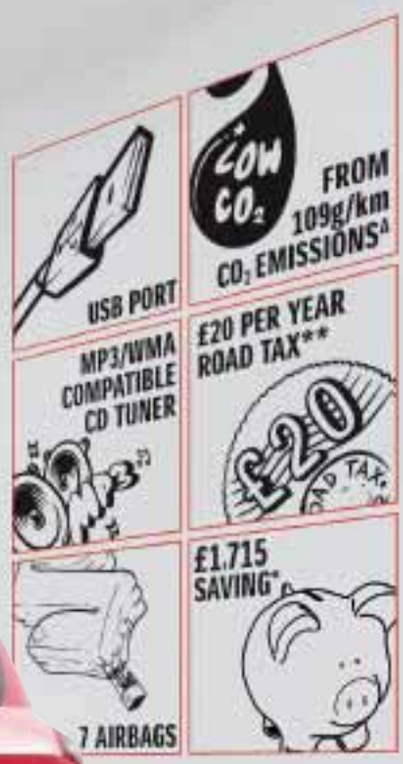

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VAUXHALL

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ICE HOCKEY

Dynamos defenceman makes shock ice return

Picture: DAVID TREVALLION

BACK: Ryan Giles made a quick recovery to return for the Mos

ALMOST nine months after retiring due to injury, Ryan Giles made a welcome return to the ice for Invicta Dynamos last weekend.

The defenceman snapped his right leg in a car accident last year. Although he recovered to play for the Mos last season the titanium bar inserted by surgeons running from his knee to his hip hampered his skating.

Reluctantly Giles, 21, hung up his skates in January. There were fears he would never return but after the bar was removed in May the progress has been rapid.

Beginning pre-season training with a degree of trepidation, Giles was relieved to discover he could skate unhindered. Although still some way from full fitness he made his first-team return last week in an 8-2 defeat at Chelmsford Chieftains.

"It's been a rocky road," Giles said.

"It takes a bit of time to get the hand-eye co-ordination back again. It might sound stupid but the leg didn't just affect my skating but also shooting, because I was off balance. In a way I've had to retrain myself again.

"I always said to myself I would have to wait and see when I started training again. People were asking whether I would spend a season with the second team, but I felt good instantly. As soon as I started skating I could tell it felt like it used to before the accident, which was a fantastic feeling."

Kevin Parrish, the Mos' head coach, said: "I didn't want Ryan out there if he could only give 70 or 80 per cent like last time, he wasn't throwing his body around then because he was wary of his leg. It's different now and it's a bonus for us."

ATHLETICS

Harriers' girls remain among Europe's best

OUTSTANDING performances claimed 10 medals for Blackheath & Bromley Harriers' under-20 women's squad as they finished third at the European Champion Clubs Cup.

Megan Southwart, Rachel Dickens and Krystal Galley led the way with individual golds, while the trio, with Amara Lalemi-Jacobs, also won the 4x400-metre relay.

Even with several team members unable to compete in Castellon, Spain, last weekend Blackheath finished on the podium in the top division, just behind Fenerbahce, from Turkey.

Tim Soutar, Blackheath's team manager, said: "It's such an honour to have the girls representing Britain. To finish third is a great achievement and if we'd had our strongest team out we would have certainly finished second and maybe even won it.

"There are some fine athletes coming through so we have high hopes. Taking part in this competition is great for them because in addition to just the standard they're up against, it's run along the lines of a major championships, so when they get to big events in the future they will feel a little more comfortable."

Blackheath, who also finished third in 2010, will again represent Britain at next year's competition after they retained their National Junior Athletics League title a week before heading to Spain.

ATHLETICS

Nomination finishes off big year for Green

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

A breakthrough season on the track for Jack Green has been acknowledged with the teenager shortlisted for the European Athletics Rising Star Award.

Beginning the year as a virtual unknown outside of Britain, Green has slashed his personal best in the 400 metres hurdles en route to the European Under-23 title in July.

The athlete, who grew up in Snodland, also competed at the World Athletics Champsionships last month, where his training partner at Bath, Dai Greene, took the title.

Green is one of 13 men on the list, which includes German shot putter David Storl and pole vaulter Pawel Wojciechowski from Poland, who both became world champions in Daegu, South Korea.

The award, whose former winners include French sprint star Christophe Lemaitre, is partly voted for by an online public vote (visit www.european-athletics.org to take part), which closes on Monday.

Green is not expecting to win the award, but is delighted to be included.

He said: "I'm extremely proud about it and I wasn't expecting to be on the shortlist. I know I've had a good year but I was still surprised to be on it.

"There are two on the list who won their events in the World Championships this year, so it's got to be between them, but I still see myself as the one who has risen the most this year. I have come from nowhere and knocked 1.5 seconds off my PB.

"I've had a lot of people behind me on Facebook and Twitter, it's just a shame it's not all decided by a public vote."

The former Ashford runner is on an enforced month's break from athletics following the World Championships.

The hard work begins again in October when he returns to Bath University to resume training under the guidance of renowned coach Malcom Arnold.

Green went to Daegu with high hopes of reaching the final, but was eliminated in the semi-finals.

He made headlines by launching a critical attack on himself in the post-race interview, but even after the dust has settled he stands by the assessment.

"I don't regret it, in the end I want to make a name for myself and I'm not going to shy away from that," he said. "There weren't any excuses, I didn't perform how I said I would.

"It was still a really good experience and great to be around the senior team with people I used to watch on television when I was growing up. I learned a lot from them in how they act before competitions. I wouldn't say I wasn't professional, but there's a lot more focus I could put into my race plans."

He also believes Greene's world title can only help him as the build-up to the London Olympics begins in earnest this winter.

He said: "I train with the guy who is the best in the world and I know I can compete with him and beat him in the next year."

GOLD: Jack Green's European Under-23 title was the highlight

RUGBY

Spencer comes out of retirement to make Kent return with flourishing Aylesford Bulls ladies

FORMER England captain Catherine Spencer has returned to the Kent rugby scene after making her competitive debut for Aylesford Bulls ladies last weekend.

Spencer, who skippered her country for three years, played in her favoured number-eight position and scored one of 14 tries as the Bulls hammered Woodbridge 86-0 in their opening league fixture. Her arrival at the Jack Williams Memorial Ground further strengthens a ladies' section which is already the strongest in Kent and contains several other international players.

After making many headlines during her time at the top level of the women's game, Spencer is after a quieter life at Aylesford, although the club's profile is bound to be raised by her presence in the squad.

Bulls ladies coach, Max Melville-Brown, said: "Cath hasn't come here to say to everyone 'come and play here', she's here to play with her friends. Inevitably, though, people will see she's playing here and maybe they'll want to step up to that level.

"There are a lot of clubs in Kent with one or two good players floating around and one or two of those might want to step up to play at a good standard, in a team with aspirations to reach the Premiership.

"We're currently the head team in Kent and we want to move it on from here. We had a really heavy recruitment drive [in the summer], one of the players who was already with us is a German international, so we put the feelers out."

Picture: MARTYN WATSON

RETURN: Cath Spencer is back in Kent

Born in Ashford, Spencer's first taste of rugby came in the minis section at Folkestone, which she joined aged eight. During her time at the club, she became the first woman playing outside the Premiership to represent England and her international career spanned seven years.

Spencer played professionally for Worcester, Bath and Bristol and she captained England in the World Cup on home soil least year, relinquishing the captaincy after her side were edged out 13-10 by New Zealand in the final.

Deciding to play on, the 30-year-old was part of the England team which won a fifth straight Six Nations title earlier this year. After the tournament, though, she decided to retire from all rugby, telling KoS: "It's a natural handover, stepping down as captain before the Six Nations and then retiring from rugby afterwards."

The Bulls ladies play in RFUW Championship South East 2, two divisions below the Premiership. Last Sunday's huge win, which ended Woodbridge's long unbeaten run, will have sent a definite statement to their rivals for promotion this season.

TOURING CARS

Jackson reaches the end of the road at Rockingham

By Steve Tervet
steve.tervet@archant.co.uk

MOTORBASE Performance must wait until next season to mount another challenge for the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) following another weekend of woe for Mat Jackson at Rockingham.

The 30-year-old has scrapped toe-to-toe with touring car heavyweights Matt Neal, Jason Plato and Gordon Shedden for much of the campaign, but his brave challenge for the overall drivers' championship was effectively ended in Derbyshire on Sunday.

Driving for Airwaves Racing, the team representing Wrotham-based Motorbase in the BTCC, Jackson travelled to Rockingham with 47 kilograms of ballast on board his Ford Focus and managed to qualify ninth for race one.

Early moves past Shedden and Andrew Jordan were to prove in vain, however, as a multi-car shunt crushed his turbo-charging and inter-cooling system, forcing him out of the race.

Jackson's luck did not improve in race two. Contact with Rob Collard's Audi forced one of his rear doors to open and despite hasty repairs in the pits, the problem resurfaced late in the race and the black flags meant an early retirement.

A 13th-placed finish in race three meant Jackson left the meeting without picking up a single point, leaving him 45 adrift of Neal and Shedden's Hondas with only six races remaining.

Jackson said: "I didn't think things could get any worse after Knockhill, but this weekend proved me wrong. Even coming here we had a chance of salvaging our challenge for the title and I can't believe we had such a shocker."

One positive for Airwaves was a 10th-placed finish for Michael Caine in race one on his BTCC debut, although Liam Griffin's tough season continued as he again failed to register a point.

Airwaves team manager Oly Collins said: "Well, another awful weekend for us, there's not really much that I can say about it. On the plus side, Michael had a great first race in the BTCC and managed to score our only point of the week-

Pictures: NICK DUNGAN

HAPPY: Motorbase's Michael Caine

ALL OVER: Mat Jackson is out of the running for the drivers' championship

end. Unfortunately this weekend's results have put an end to Mat's outright championship challenge."

Caine, making the step up from the Porsche Carrera Cup GB to drive in the BTCC for the first time, took the positives from an encouraging debut.

"What an experience," he said. "It was fantastic; everything I expected it to be out there and just as tough as it looks. I picked up a few bumps and bruises on the way, which is to be expected in the BTCC.

"Unfortunately, we had a couple of problems with the turbo in races two and three, but the Motorbase boys gave me a great car and I'm delighted to have been out there racing, let alone to have scored a point in my first race. Hopefully I'll get the chance to get back out at Brands Hatch and we can come back stronger with a better weekend's results."

Dartford's Tony Gilham finished outside the points at Rockingham, but did at least finish all three races after agreeing a deal to drive for Geoff Steel Racing.

The series heads to Brands Hatch on October 2, with Airwaves still in contention for the independent teams' championship.

PIVOTAL: Shane Byrne needs to add to his four race wins this season or face being cut adrift in the standings

SUPERBIKES

Byrne's title hopes at risk

IT is make or break time for Shane Byrne this weekend as the British Superbike Championship heads to Silverstone.

Disappointing finishes in both races at Donington earlier this month left the Sheppey rider third in the title race, 25 points behind leader John Hopkins.

Byrne, 34, needs two strong finishes in Sunday's races to stand any chance of being involved in the championship battle heading to the series finale at Brands Hatch next month.

Tommy Hill is still well in the hunt and is just three points behind Hopkins in second place, after seven successive podium finishes.

The 26-year-old from Beckenham has won seven races this year, more than any other rider.

GOLF

Stupples keen to improve on poor Solheim Cup past

KAREN Stupples competes for Europe this weekend hoping her second experience of the Solheim Cup is better than her debut six years ago.

The Deal golfer was a peripheral figure at Crooked Stick, Indiana, in 2005, failing to score a point as the United States won women's golf's equivalent of the Ryder Cup 15.5-12.5.

Stupples was selected as one of Europe captain Alison Nicholas' picks for this year's tournament at Killeen Castle in Ireland, which finishes on Sunday.

The 38-year-old is optimistic of playing a more important role second time around.

She said: "I didn't have my A-game and it showed and I only played two matches because of it. It was my first Solheim Cup and it was a totally different experience to what I had done before.

"I'm not sure I felt part of the team because I didn't know people very well. This time I feel I know everyone better, I feel I belong."

Picture: ADY KERRY

IN FORM: Karen Stupples

Stupples went into the tournament in excellent form. Carding a final round 70 last Sunday she finished tied for fourth place at the Navistar Classic in Alabama, her best finish on the LPGA Tour for almost three years.

The former Women's British Open champion also played the Solheim Cup course last month in the Ladies Irish Open, finishing joint 13th.

Touring car legend Tim Harvey has teamed up with Archant KOS Media this season to bring you a regular column as the class of 2011 do battle up and down the country. Harvey, who was brought up in Sevenoaks and schooled in Tonbridge, more recently raced in the Porsche Carrera Cup for Wrotham team Motorbase Performance. He shares his thoughts as an ITV commentator on the British Touring Car Championship, and discusses the series' big issues.

'Slight edge for Neal in title fight'

I DEFINITELY feel for Mat Jackson, after getting himself in a position where he's leading the championship and then not scoring any points in six consecutive races.

For him, it's been a combination of some bad luck, some 'wrong place, wrong time' and some of it's possibly down to the driver making mistakes, trying to make up for previous problems.

However, the Motorbase team should take a huge amount of credit for what they've done this season. They've established themselves among the powerhouse teams as consistent winners, as one of the front-running teams. They've done a brilliant job this year and people definitely take them seriously because they're one of the top teams out there now.

I think the title battle between Matt Neal and Gordon Shedden will probably go all the way to the final race of the season. With only two more race meetings and six races, it will possibly come down to who has a bit of bad luck. There are only three people in the championship now, realistically, and because the Hondas are leading at the moment, you've got to fancy them.

The fact Neal has won this championship before gives him a slight edge over his team-mate, Shedden. When you've never won the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) and you're in a position to win, there can be an air of desperation and that could be either constructive or destructive for Shedden.

Jason Plato's the third title contender, having reduced the points difference at Rockingham, although not as much as he would have liked. He's got every chance in the next two races of reducing it further. It will still be difficult for him to win from here, but he won't give up, he'll try to use the situation to his advantage because he's still the underdog.

Everyone likes it when they've got nothing to lose and everything to gain. Of course, he'd rather be in front, but he'll relish the challenge of coming from behind.

The support series are nearing their conclusion now. The Renault Clio Cup has produced touring car drivers in the past and Aron Smith's already had a run at Knockhill this season, so we know he's capable of holding his own.

Whoever wins the Ginetta GT Supercup gets a drive in the BTCC next season. Carl Breeze has been there before but Tom Sharp and Nathan Freke, two of his rivals, have not.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
FOCUS
WITH FRED ATKINS

'New league is a blessing'

A quiz question: what links Rodney Marsh to Ian Wright?

The first and most obvious answer is that both men are former England internationals whose playing careers have since been partially eclipsed by their services to furthering the inanity of the football punditary in the UK.

The second, more obscure answer, is that during the 'noughties' they both had phantom roles with Ashford Town Football Club, a decade which saw an established force in Kent semi-professional football slide into oblivion.

It's probably legally advisable to point out that neither Wright nor Marsh had anything to do with Town's collapse.

This is because they actually had nothing to do with Ashford at all, unless you count Marsh spending an afternoon at Homelands in 2000 when he said the club would soon be in the Football League, or Wright's nominal appointment as 'Director of Football Strategy' in 2007.

The most uplifting story in Kent football this year is arguably the revival of senior football in Ashford, which has been purely down to the genuine enthusiasm of fans, directors and players following the disenchantment of the past decade.

Whether they've been helped by being placed in the new Kent Invicta League (KIL) remains open to conjecture.

It's always dangerous to talk about a club's 'natural level' but the present system fails to differentiate between clubs which exist for players, and clubs that represent a town or a wider geographical area.

In terms of infrastructure, catchment area and potential fan base, even in the Kent League, Ashford would stick out like a sane man at a Daily Express readers' convention. The wider Ashford area has a population of more than 100,000 and Homelands' facilities are good enough for a far higher standard of football.

By contrast the average attendance of 79 (boosted by three gates of over 200 for Ashford fixtures) from the first 44 games was billed on the KIL website as a "remarkable achievement".

It's not bad compared to the Kent League, but that's not saying a lot. There are KCFA committees with more people sitting on them than you'll find on the touchlines at some Kent League grounds.

On the plus side, by being accepted into the KIL Ashford escaped the lower divisions of the County League, a netherworld from which it took Maidstone and Canterbury years to emerge and which Sheppey remain mired in.

If the KIL acts as a bottom rung for the football pyramid it may yet be one of the best things to happen in the county for a long time.

Players' clubs come and go, but fans' clubs should only be allowed to drop so far. You can sink a long way in football. Just look at "Live From Studio Five."

GILLINGHAM

Nouble open to extending loan stay after flying start with Gills

By David Pritchard
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ALTHOUGH it took time for Frank Nouble to make up his mind about coming to Gillingham, the on-loan striker is in no rush to leave after starting with a bang last weekend.

The 20-year-old found the net within 19 minutes of his Gills debut, scoring the first goal in a 6-1 rout at Hereford United.

By his own admission Nouble needed a couple of weeks to consider the merits of dropping from West Ham into League Two for the first time. Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler's persistence and the attraction of regular football proved key and Nouble is now open to extending the stay beyond the initial one-month agreement.

"I don't see why not," he said. "As long as it's going well you always want to stay where you are playing well. It can go all the way until December and then in January you make a decision whether it goes until the end of the season.

"Certainly this team has to be looking for promotion, there's nothing else they should be looking for to be honest. I think the players are good enough, so for myself I just want to do well in the first month, bang a few goals in and take it from there."

Hessenthaler said last month he was hoping to bring in a striker on loan with a view to making it permanent in January. Nouble's aspirations of making a name for himself with West Ham may make that option unlikely, and the Gills boss was reluctant to be drawn on whether the club would seek to lengthen the temporary deal.

He said: "Frank can help us and we can help him. I was well pleased with him, he scored on his debut which is nice.

"We'll see [about a longer deal], I don't want to jump the gun. It was tough to try and get him to come to the club.

"He's come down to us and hopefully he'll bang the goals in. We'll take him for a month and see what happens."

A former Chelsea youth team player, Nouble was signed for West Ham by Gianfranco Zola two years ago. His 15 appearances for the Hammers have been punctuated by loan spells, with Gillingham the sixth club he has joined.

A return of two senior goals from 30 appearances before arriving at Priestfield is underwhelming, but the Lewisham-born striker insists it is misleading.

He said: "To be honest you'll always be judged by goals. I think wherever I've been I've played out wide and not as a striker all the time.

"I've always been a striker but when you go out on loan they try to fit you into their system, it can't always suit you but the manager here has put me in straight away and I've paid him back with a goal. Hopefully we can continue in that fashion.

"I think you can only look at my hunger to want to play, that's why I've gone out on loan. I haven't gone out because I don't like where I am, it's because I want to gain some more experience and do well for whatever team I'm at. A few loans have done me good, I've grown up quickly."

Picture: STEVE BACON, NEWHAM RECORDER

TALENT: West Ham striker Frank Nouble would consider prolonging his loan spell at Gillingham

GILLINGHAM

Hessenthaler brands decision to sack Reid as "ludicrous" but King stays on with Plymouth

FOOTBALL management and job security are rarely seen in the same sentence, but Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler admitted he was stunned to see Peter Reid sacked by Plymouth Argyle last weekend.

The Pilgrims board acted after the team picked up one point from their opening nine games in League Two, which included a 3-0 defeat at Priestfield last month.

It marked the end of a troubled reign for Reid which had been played out in the context of severe financial conditions. A points penalty saw them relegated from League One last season and they went into this weekend's games five points from safety. With the best players sold or released, the majority of the names on the teamsheet against Gillingham were inexperienced youngsters.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

SACK: Simon King is unaffected, but Andy Hessenthaler was shocked

Hessenthaler is planning to contact Reid, with whom he has been friends for several years, to offer his sympathy.

He said: "I'm devastated for him, how can you sack a manager after what he has had to put up with over the last few months? What's going to change? They've given it to Carl Fletcher and the goalkeeper [Romain Larrieu], fair enough that's their decision and good luck to them. I've been there as a player/manager, it's difficult but you can do it for a short period of time.

"I just feel sorry for Peter because of what he had to work under with players not being paid and then he gets the sack, I think it's ludicrous."

Reid's firing does not affect Simon King's loan move from the Gills. The defender has made three appearances for the strugglers, playing 90 minutes against Southend United last weekend for the first time since the Wembley play-off final in May 2009.

Hessenthaler believes King needs more games to force his way into the Gills' side and agreed to extend the loan for a second month on Thursday.

He said: "It's been good for Kingy. I think he needs more games, he's been out for a long time so the games won't hurt him."

CYCLING

Cavendish denies House in London but Rapha man impresses in Tour of Britain

By Glenn Pearson
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Pictures: ADY KERRY

ATTACK: Kristian House stayed away for nine laps of the final stage of the Tour of Britain, while below, the Rapha rider managed to hold World champion Thor Hushovd at bay in the time trial

KRISTIAN House further enhanced his reputation in the peleton by almost stealing the show on the final stage of the Tour of Britain.

The Canterbury-born rider was part of a break that stayed away for nine of the 10 laps of the Tour's final race in London, before going alone in a solo bid to claim a stage win. In the end it was a futile attempt as peleton heavyweights HTC, Sky and Rabobank kept him at arm's length, before reeling him in with two miles to go. Mark Cavendish took the sprint victory ahead of team-mate Mark Renshaw and Sky's Geraint Thomas.

Quite why House didn't win the combativity award, presented to the most aggressive rider on the stage, is difficult to fathom after having dominated the break. He missed out on a stage win for the second time in this year's Tour of Britain, following a similar late catch on the stage in Wales, won by World champion Thor Hushovd.

However, after having featured prominently on the stage in London and similarly in a break during the Olympic test event around the capital last month, his stock as an experienced and gutsy rider has surely risen.

The 31-year-old also helped team-mate Jonathan Tiernan-Locke win the King of the Mountains jersey, but it was riding in front of the 100,000-plus crowd last Sunday that really stood out.

"Going through and doing that last lap on my own, even though I knew I was going to get caught, it was still pretty awesome for me," House said. "It was just to see how far I could push it. The rain came and helped me, but the problem was the course was just a straight line so you were never going to stay away in a situation like that.

"I don't think they were prepared to let more than two or three guys go and when I went I didn't even know there was someone already up the road. I just thought 'this is my one chance to do it, so I'll go flat out'. The idea was always to go up the road, but maybe not from the gun and stay out there all day, but we thought 'we're in London, our sponsors are all here, we've had a good Tour and there's no fun sitting in the bunch, let's race'."

With the cycling season now at an end, House can look back at a year that has seen him perform well in the Tour of Britain and at the National Road Race Championships, but the highlight will no doubt be winning the Tour of South Africa.

"I'm pretty happy with my year," he said. "The races that were important to the team we did well in. I would have liked a couple more wins, but would I have traded any of them for winning the Tour of South Africa? Probably not.

"I'll have about a month of not riding my bike, then probably start back training and once the programme starts getting filled out and I figure out where I am going to ride, we'll look at next year."

FOOTBALL

Buoyant Dartford showing signs of mounting a serious promotion bid

A strong start to the season has convinced Tony Burman his Dartford side have what it takes to win promotion to the Conference Premier this season.

A 2-1 win at home to Staines Town on Tuesday night was the club's seventh success in the opening 10 games. It took them level on points with leaders Woking in the Conference South table, with the Cards topping the pile by virtue of a marginally better goal difference before this weekend's games.

Princes Park would not be out of place at a higher level and neither would the Darts' attendances, which average more than 1,000 this season.

Burman is looking for his third promotion in five seasons. While the Dartford boss believes there is enough in the squad to maintain a challenge all season, his focus is more short-term.

CONTENDERS: Dartford have been in great form this season

He said: "All we're thinking is we've played 10 games and at the moment we're the team with the second best record in the league. We now go into the next 10 games and hopefully we'll still be there or thereabouts after those and if we're still there after 40 games I'd be delighted.

"We are showing we are capable of sustaining it. The squad's looking good and they are together, which is good because that earns you a lot of points.

"The play-offs are the goal, anything above that is a bonus. At the moment we're not setting the world alight, we're doing okay and picking up points, which is what we need to do."

FOOTBALL

Lack of opportunities at Ipswich forces ex-Sittingbourne man into loan move

FORMER Sittingbourne and Gravesend & Northfleet midfielder Andrew Drury has joined League Two side Crawley Town on a 93-day loan.

The 27-year-old, who joined Championship side Ipswich Town last season, asked boss Paul Jewell to send him out on loan after finding his opportunities at Portman Road few and far between.

Drury had started just four games since signing for the Tractor Boys for £150,000 in January, and felt it was time to look elsewhere.

"The most I played in pre-season was 45 minutes so I just didn't really get a go," he said. "I came back really fit as well, so it was a bit disappointing to not get any game-time really.

"There were three or four clubs that wanted me, but Crawley were the ones that agreed a deal with Ipswich.

SWITCH: Andrew Drury has left Ipswich to join Crawley on loan

"It was either go and play at Crawley or stay and train at Ipswich, it was just about getting out and playing."

Drury, from Sittingbourne, spent two years with the Brickies before signing for the Fleet in 2003.

His career has progressed, having also won promotion to the Football League with Stevenage Borough in 2010, and could make his move to Crawley permanent if all goes well.

"They have a lot of ambition to get up to League One so I knew I would be joining a team that would be winning most weekends and that's when you really enjoy your football; when you're winning," he said.

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